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IN INVESTIGATION INTO KAGMAN SHOOTING

DPS awaits Guam ballistics findings

Over 90% of Rota now energized

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The post-Typhoon Mawar recovery efforts on Rota continues, with over 90% of the island now re-energized.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announced last Monday that about 92% of Rota has so far been re-en-

See OVER on Page 4



Gov. Arnold I. Palacios accompanies a team of senior leaders from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to Rota yesterday to discuss response and recovery efforts with Rota Mayor Aubrey M. Hocog. The visit also allowed FEMA senior leaders to see firsthand the typhoon damage on Rota and the local response efforts that are ongoing to restore power, provide access to water, conduct home and public facilities damage assessments, and more. The delegation from FEMA included Anne Bink, FEMA associate administrator of Response and Recovery; FEMA Region IX administrator Robert "Bob" Fenton; Jeffrey Dorko, FEMA associate administrator, Logistics; Justin Knighton, FEMA director of External Affairs; and other FEMA leaders. They also visited the CUC power plant, East Harbor, West Harbor, and other locations.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Public Safety says it has sent to the Guam Police Department's crime laboratory the evidence it had collected at a home in Kagman where a 7-year-old boy had been shot in the face and DPS is now awaiting the ballistics report.

DPS spokesperson Fred Sato confirmed this in an interview yesterday, saying this is the lat-

est development in the case, which occurred last May 21.

See DPS on Page 4

IPI opposes receiver's request for reimbursement of expenses

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC is opposing Clear Management Ltd.'s request to be reimbursed

for expenses incurred as the court-appointed receiver and is accusing Clear Management of causing damage to the casino while carrying out its duties, and that it has not taken

See IPI on Page 4

Santos objects to proposal to require Legislature's approval of DPL budget

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands opposes a legislative proposal that will require the Legislature to first approve DPL's proposed annual budget.

DPL Secretary Teresita A. Santos said the department may be unable to per-

form its duty to manage and dispose of public lands if the

See SANTOS on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Days until
'touchback rule'
takes effect on
Sept. 30, 2023:
122

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Meals 4U expands its offerings by opening a barbecue stand right next to the restaurant.

PAGE 11



GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Summer is also typically a good time to use softer, lighter colors within the home.

PAGE 14



LIFE & STYLE

A poem written for President Joe Biden's inauguration has been placed on a restricted list.

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Local

Matson to contribute \$350K shipping services to relief effort

HONOLULU—Matson announced yesterday that it will contribute \$350,000 in transportation and in-kind services toward disaster relief in Guam, Micronesia, and the CNMI, and expects to begin delivering relief supplies on voyage Manukai 237, scheduled to arrive on Tuesday, June 6.

On Sunday, May 28, Matson’s vessel, Maunawili, which had been positioned offshore earlier in the week to shelter from Typhoon Mawar, was the first containership to arrive following the reopening of the Port of Guam and began discharging 454 containers of general goods.

“Thanks to the focused efforts of the Guam government, the Port Authority of Guam, and the U.S. Coast Guard to reopen the port, we were able to deliver goods to Guam within days of the storm passing,” said Matt Cox, chairman and CEO of Matson. “We want the people of Guam, Micronesia, and [the] CNMI to know that they can count on Matson to help our communities recover in the difficult weeks ahead. We are committed to helping with recovery efforts in the way we know best—by delivering needed supplies, equipment, and donations to Guam as quickly and efficiently as possible.”

Matson operates a weekly direct service from the U.S. West Coast with the largest containerships serving Guam and provides connecting service to islands of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Palau.

Matson is working with FEMA and the American Red Cross to facilitate shipments of relief supplies to Guam for the recovery process in the coming weeks and months. The company is also working with community organizations in Hawaii that are leading Guam relief efforts, providing transportation of donated goods to Guam in the coming weeks.

Matson has served Guam since 1996. For detailed service schedules and other information, visit Matson.com.

Founded in 1882, Matson is a leading provider of ocean transportation and logistics services. Matson provides a vital lifeline of ocean freight transportation services to the domestic non-contiguous economies of Hawaii, Alaska, and Guam, and to other island economies in Micronesia. For more information, visit www.matson.com. **(PR)**

SUBMIT COMMENTS ONLINE

Submit all electronic public comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal, www.regulations.gov.

Search for “NOAA-NOS-2023-0052”. Click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

SUBMIT COMMENTS BY EMAIL

Comments must be postmarked by June 2, 2023.

Send comments to:

PRI-Proposed Sanctuary, NOAA/ONS
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76 Kamehameha Ave.
Hilo, HI 96720

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**NORTHERN MARIANAS COALITION
AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE**
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PHONE: 670.234.3878

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence's (NMCADSV) mission is to promote, nourish, and sustain a collective movement against violence. All applicants must be familiar with and agree with NMCADSV's mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic violence, sexual assault, and violence of all forms.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title:	Program Coordinator
Salary Range:	\$14.00/hr. ~ \$18.25/hr.
Classification:	Full Time, Non-Exempt.
	Full Benefits, including paid leave and health insurance.

Job Summary

The Program Coordinator will work with the Executive Director of NMCADSV, Associate Director, and other NMCADSV staff to achieve its mission, goals, and objectives. The Program Coordinator will report to NMCADSV's Associate Director, assist with the daily operations of NMCADSV, and provide support for NMCADSV's programmatic activities. The Program Coordinator will plan and execute activities in relation to NMCADSV's mission and goals, with particular attention to specific activities outlined in corresponding grant applications.

Duties

- Confers with and reports to the Associate Director
- Assists with the coordination of all NMCADSV activities, including training and program development.
- Assists with development of presentation and training materials.
- Conducts presentations and assists with training events.
- Develops and executes community outreach and education activities.
- Assists with program evaluation.
- Maintains relationships and works collaboratively with a variety of organizations.
- Builds and maintains partnerships with community organizations and government agencies.
- Works with community organizations and government agencies to identify and address training needs.
- Attends all meetings (virtual or in-person) as assigned.
- Travels to national and inter-island meetings and conferences, as required or requested.
- Assists in grants management, including the preparation of application packets, gathering data for reports, and preparing reports.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications

- An agreement with NMCADSV's mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence
- High School Diploma or Equivalent
- Experience with community organizing and/or outreach
- Experience planning and executing events
- Demonstrated proficiency in written and oral communication
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Applications and Google Applications
- Ability to manage multiple tasks and deadlines
- Ability to work some nights and weekends
- Experience with assessments and analysis
- Must be able to travel within the CNMI and US Mainland

Highly - Desired Qualifications

- Experience working in social justice or working directly with survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual assault.
- Knowledge of dynamics of sexual violence and/or domestic violence.
- Knowledge of and commitment to culturally relevant, empowerment, and strength-based strategies for eliminating sexual violence and/or domestic violence.
- 1 year or more of documented experience/work with non-profit organizations or volunteerism
- Own transportation, with documented insurance, registration, and a valid driver's license.

How to Apply (Deadline: Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 5:00 PM)

A Resume and Cover Letter should be submitted on or before 5:00 PM on Wednesday, June 21, 2023. Provide a list (not copies) of any certifications or awards. Late and incomplete submissions will not be considered. Resumes, cover letters, and other documents may be emailed to info@endviolencenmi.org OR delivered to the NMCADSV Office at the Marina Heights I Building in Puerto Rico, Saipan during hours of operation OR mailed to NMCADSV postmarked on or before the deadline.

Applicants who are asked to interview will be asked to bring a copy of their Diploma(s) or equivalent, Police Clearance (dated within 30 days), valid Passport, and a list of references. NMCADSV is an equal opportunity employer. Individuals from under-served communities are encouraged to apply.

This project is supported by Grant No. 15JOVW-21-GG-00717-MUMU awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, US Department of Justice and Grant No. 2201MPSDVC awarded by the Administration for Children and Families, US Department of Health and Human Services. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/proposal/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the US Department of Justice or the US Department of Health and Human Services.

Palacios assures assistance for Rota

Although the damage from Typhoon Mawar on Rota wasn't as bad as they thought, the biggest issue facing the island is its power and water infrastructure, according to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios last Monday.

In a brief conversation with reporters after Monday's Memorial Day ceremony at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi, he said his Rota visit last Saturday also gave him a chance to talk with Rota Mayor Aubrey Hocog.

"We were able to talk to the mayor and assure the people

that we are here to help them," Palacios said. "We were able to deploy some people down there. I'm very proud of our [Commonwealth Utilities Corp.], especially the Rota line crew and the water crew down there. We sent some folks from Saipan and some critical equipment and supplies down there."

Another major issue on Rota, he said, is a damaged fuel line of Mobil Oil Marianas at the East Harbor. He said that Hocog had told him that they are working to restore it.

Palacios said that Rota only

has 25 days' worth of fuel, and that was a situation they needed to take care of. "That is the top priority because that is what provides the diesel for the power plant," Palacios said.

He assured that the CNMI will be lending a helping hand to Guam as well, as soon as Rota is stabilized. "We are going to come together and we are going to see what we can do to source out assistance for our brothers and sisters in Guam once we are assured Rota is stabilized and things are moving forward." (Chrystal Marino)

DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM, TYPHOON RECOVERY EFFORTS

Senate committee meeting postponed anew

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The scheduled meeting yesterday morning of the Senate Judiciary, Government and Law Committee did not push through due to a lack of quorum and the ongoing typhoon recovery efforts on Rota.

Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), who chairs the committee, postponed the meeting until further notice as she and Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) were the only ones who showed up for the 10:30am meeting.

Babauta told Saipan Tri-

bune that all legislators from Rota "are boots on the ground" and assisting resident in the wake of Typhoon Mawar, which went through the Marianas region last week. She said Rota legislators are also facing internet issues right now.

The committee needs a minimum of three senators present in order to have a quorum.

Aside from Babauta and Manglona, the other committee members are Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Sen. Dennis James Mendiola (R-Rota).

The committee meeting was originally scheduled for Wednesday last week, but was canceled as a precautionary measure due to Typhoon Mawar. On the agenda of the meeting is Senate Bill 23-19 that seeks to remove the payment of land compensation judgments by the Department of Public Lands.

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Man accused of smuggling drugs through mail pleads guilty

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man who allegedly attempted to smuggle methamphetamine or “ice” into the CNMI through the U.S. Postal Service has pleaded guilty at the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Zhang Yuzhu pleaded guilty last week to possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona accepted Zhang’s guilty plea after finding him fully competent to enter a knowing and voluntary plea.

Manglona vacated Zhang’s jury trial and ordered the court clerk to unseal Zhang’s plea agreement.

Zhang will be sentenced on Friday, Aug. 25, 2023, at 1:30pm. Manglona remanded him back to the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

Meanwhile, in the CNMI Superior Court, following a motion from the Office of the Attorney General, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho dismissed with prejudice the local drug case against Zhang.

Zhang, 48, was accused of attempting to smuggle from California through the mail 4.9 lbs of methamphetamine. The seized contraband had a street value of approximately \$700,000, authorities said.

In local court, Zhang was charged with importation of contraband, trafficking, and possession of a controlled substance.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the drug contraband was discovered on March 19 during a Customs routine inspection of a large parcel addressed to Zhang. Inside the parcel, Customs officer Franklin Sa-

blan said he saw three wooden cases containing chinaware. Upon further inspection of the wooden cases, Sa-blán noticed a square object wrapped in duct tape under the chinaware inside the wooden case. While examining the square object, the officer noticed white crystalline substance spilling into the wooden case.

After procuring the parcel and its contents as evidence, the items were transported to the Customs office at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport for processing and testing, where it turned out positive for methamphetamine.

Karidat not accepting clothing and household donations as of June 1

Starting June 1, 2023, Karidat Social Services will be unable to accept donations of clothing or household goods as it will be moving to a new location.

“As soon as our move is complete, we will inform the com-

munity. We thank you for patience and understanding as we go through this transition. We wish to thank the community for their generosity and continued support,” the agency said in a news release yesterday. (PR)

OVER

From Page 1

energized, with over 860 CUC customers now back on the power grid and 119 additional customers energized as of 4pm.

Specifically, 100% of electric power has been restored to the villages of Sinapalo 1, 2, and 3.

About 79 CUC customers from Songsong, Ginalagan, Chenchun, Gampapa, As Nieves, and Du’gi remain without power due damaged power poles.

The water supply has been back up on Rota, with the exception of three residences in the Teneto village, and two residences in the Chenchun village. Ginalagan residents at the end of the water system may experience low or no water pressure.

A boil water notice remains in effect for the entire island, which was first issued last Sunday, May 28, 2023. All residents are being advised

that not to drink the water without boiling it first.

CUC water crew continue to repair leaks caused by the storm. Customers may experience intermittent services as the leaks are being repaired.

A water filling station has been opened at the Ginalagan Tank (limiting 50 gallons per customer) from 7am to 7pm.

In addition, *Saipan Tribune* learned that supplies and resources continue to be mobilized to Rota through the U.S Coast Guard’s C-130 aircraft.

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management has coordinated the deployment essential items like water over the past few days as water samples from Rota continue to be tested on Saipan.

Yesterday, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios accompanied a team of senior leaders from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to Rota to discuss response and recovery efforts with Rota Mayor Aubrey M. Hocog.

The delegation from FEMA in-

cluded Anne Bink, FEMA associate administrator of Response and Recovery; FEMA Region IX administrator Robert “Bob” Fenton; Jeffrey Dorko, FEMA associate administrator, Logistics; Justin Knighton, FEMA director of External Affairs; and other FEMA leaders.

The visit also allowed senior FEMA leaders to see firsthand the typhoon damage on Rota and the ongoing local response efforts like the restoration of power, and restoration of water access.

In addition, these leaders have begun conducting assessments for home and public facility damage.

As part of these assessments, FEMA personnel also visited the CUC power plant, East Harbor, West Harbor, and other locations that sustained damage from Mawar.

The coordination of the CNMI’s response to Typhoon Mawar is led by CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management special assistant Franklin R. Babauta.

IPI

From Page 1

responsibility for the damage it caused.

IPI, through attorney Samuel Slayer, has opposed Clear Management’s request for reimbursement of expenses incurred while carrying out its duties as the court-appointed receiver in the ongoing receivership authorized by the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Clear Management had asked the court that it be paid \$27,435.93 for expenses incurred from April 1 to April 30.

However, IPI claims that in the course of performing activities onsite at the Imperial Pacific Resort pursuant to the court-ordered receivership, Clear Management’s agents or parties acting under its direction and/or supervision caused significant damage to the tile flooring of the casino.

Clear Management allegedly

caused this damage by operating or allowing the operation of a forklift inside the IPR casino without following proper safety protocol such as laying floor mats before operating heavy machinery on IPR’s tile floor.

“Notwithstanding its court-ordered responsibility for the custody, auction, and transportation of IPI’s gaming equipment and its court-ordered access to the IPR site, Clear [Management] has denied responsibility for the damage caused to the casino floor. While IPI does not have an objection to the specific expenses claimed by Clear [Management] in its recent motion, it does object to Clear [Management]’s receipt and removal of funds from the CNMI while it denies responsibility for the damage caused to the IPR,” said Slayer.

Instead of a full reimbursement, IPI is proposing that the court segregate the full amount Clear Management has requested and hold

it in an escrow account until IPI’s claims are resolved.

“Cash is fungible and it is not apparent that Clear [Management] holds any other assets in the CNMI; if IPI is forced to bring a claim against Clear [Management], it could be left unable to collect on its judgment. IPI proposes instead that the amounts claimed by Clear [Management] in this reimbursement motion (as well as future motions for expenses or fees) be segregated and held in escrow until IPI’s claim is resolved,” said Slayer.

“IPI respectfully requests that the court issue an order awarding Clear [Management] \$27,435.93 as reimbursement for the expenses claimed in its motion, but requiring that the funds be held in escrow pending resolution of IPI’s claim for damages against Clear,” the attorney added.

There was no immediate response from Clear Management about this motion.

DPS

From Page 1

“Investigation into the shooting that happened in Kagman over a week ago involving two minor children continues. We understand that there are a lot of rumors going on about [this incident], but we want to get the facts right before we start issuing out details about what happened. This includes waiting for the analysis of the ballistics. We have sent ballistics out to Guam for analysis because we don’t have a crime lab here [on] Saipan. We rely on our partner [in] Guam who do have a crime lab,” he said.

Due to the recent devastation brought by Typhoon Mawar in Guam, DPS is unsure as to when they will receive the ballistics report from GPD.

“Right now, with what’s going on with Guam, we don’t know when we will receive the findings for the ballistics sent out. ... We expect it might take a while, as Guam is still in recovery following Typhoon Mawar. It’s a process. We work on their time. When we get their findings, we will update the community,” he said.

Sato added that the ballistics report will also confirm whether the firearm in question was a registered service firearm or just a regular registered firearm that was found in the home. Sato briefly noted that there are multiple licensed gun holders in the home.

“Right now, we cannot confirm whether it is a service firearm because the ballistics are still being

analyzed. We’ve sent out the shell casings and expended cartridge found at the home. All that is going through testing and once we’ve confirmed, we will provide that information,” he said.

“Whatever was fired from the firearm, the ballistics analysis will confirm or deny the rumor of whether or not the gun was a service issued one,” he added.

Sato also briefly explained that DPS has yet to share how the boy was shot because there are two young children involved and DPS does not want to speculate on who pulled the trigger.

“There were two kids that were playing inside the home [at the time of the incident]. Because they are juveniles and because it’s still early on into the investigation, we don’t want to speculate who pulled the trigger until we can get the information from our counterparts in Guam. Once we get all that information, then we can provide the community with the exact information in regards to this case. Right now, it’s still an ongoing investigation,” Sato said.

Touching on the subject of transparency, Sato said DPS Commissioner Clement Bermudes stands firm on his promise of transparency and, once more information is available, DPS will surely release it to the public. However, at this time, DPS asks that the community remains patient as DPS continues to further investigate this sensitive matter.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

SANTOS

From Page 1

Legislature fails to approve DPL’s budget plan.

This, Santos said, would prevent DPL from maximizing revenues from public lands—recognized by the framers of the CNMI Constitution as “the only significant asset that the people of the Commonwealth have”—with the result of defunding the Marianas Public Land Trust.

While DPL acknowledges that the constitutional language in Article 11 Section 5 requiring that “the annual budget of the corporation shall be submitted to the Legislature for information purposes only” is no longer constitutionally operative pursuant to a previous court ruling in DPL’s lawsuit against the Commonwealth, the court also held that the Legislature may not act in a way that infringes on another constitutional office, she said.

Santos expressed DPL’s opposition to the proposal in the department’s position on House Bill 23-28, HS1.

In DPL’s position on the legislation submitted recently to House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee chairman Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan), the DPL secretary requested that the Legislature revise the bill consistent with

her comments prior to considering it for passage. Otherwise, she said, DPL does not support passage of the legislation.

Authored by Rep. Angelo A. Camacho (Ind-Saipan), House Bill 23-28 seeks to clarify the process for appropriation of DPL’s administrative expenses and the transfer of funds to MPLT.

Camacho stated in the legislation that there are ambiguities in the relationship between the responsibilities of DPL regarding the collection and expense of money related to public lands and the duty of MPLT to receive and invest public land money. To resolve this ambiguity, the bill expressly places DPL within the normal budgeting process for an Executive Branch agency.

Santos said DPL opposes the bill’s proposed revisions to a statute requiring the transfer to MPLT of all revenue not included in the approved budget, within 30 days after the budget is approved by the Legislature or within 30 days after the last day of each fiscal year.

Currently, Santos said, DPL is required by law to include in its budget “sums required to be held in reserve for approved homesteads or other department programs in the next two fiscal years.”

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

Tinian Poetry Slam amplifies student voices on mental health

The power of poetry was used to amplify the voices of Tinian's youth on mental health and identity last April 27,

2023, at the Tinian Junior Senior High School Cafeteria.

The PSS Mental Health's Youth Poetry Slam invited

students to step into a safe space and express themselves freely, combating stigmas surrounding mental health

and fostering resilience.

Five poets shared their art, their thoughts touching on critical societal issues such as mental health, identity, and emotional resilience. One of the highlights was Jianna Jireh Cruz, the first-place winner, who said, "If we truly want to change the effect our society has on our children, we would have to listen to them."

Third-place participant Tehya Santos echoed this sentiment, emphasizing the ripple effect of youth expression. "When the youth speak up, not only do they help themselves, they also create a positive change for others. It's a win-win scenario."

This event's panel of judges, included Board of Education

chair Antonio L. Borja, Tinian Municipal Council vice chair Marie San Nicolas, council member Steven Cabrera, BOE student representative Ryan Nuera, and PSS Mental Health School Community Council member Melanie B. Cruz.

Frank Lee Borja, PSS Mental Health project manager and Poetry Slam organizer, said, "In carving out a safe space and opportunity like this slam, we help others to see the humanity and complexity of mental health challenges and create a more compassionate and supportive community."

Mary Hocog-Brazzle, PSS Mental Health behavioral health specialist, said it was an honor to witness the poets "share powerful stories of the challenges that many students face, but often find difficult to express due to the stigma at-

tached to mental health. Our students must know that it's okay to not be okay, help is available, and your counselors and PSS Mental Health are here to support you."

The Tinian Mental Health team anticipates making this a yearly event to usher in Mental Health Awareness Month, reinforcing the importance of open dialogue and creating safe spaces for expression.

For more information and updates on their events, activities, and social media challenges for Mental Health Awareness Month, follow them on social media on @haligiaware on Instagram and Haligi Aware on Facebook or contact Dr. Bobby Cruz, State Education Agency director for PSS Mental Health at bobby.cruz@cnmipss.org. (PR)

Nuera and Ali lead TJSHS Class of '23



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Top 10 graduates of the Tinian Junior Senior High School led the Class of 2023 as they were introduced to the public on Saturday.

By **CHRYSTAL MARIINO**

chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Turning the tassel from student to alumni, a total of 41 young graduates received their long-awaited diplomas during the Tinian Junior Senior High School graduation at the school's campus last Saturday.

Leading the class were valedictorian Ryan Michael Achacoso Nuera and salutatorian Saim Ali, who were both awarded two types of awards for their outstanding effort. Nuera was presented with both the Board of Education Award and the Governor's Outstanding Student Award, while Ali took home the Commissioner's Award and the Mayor's Award.

The other awardees were Ciara Gabrielle Barcinas Santos, who received the Lt. Governor's Outstanding Student Award; Top 3 student Isa Liana King Reyes, who also received the Outstanding Female Graduate award; Hazel Anne Pablo Mabansag, who was also a Top 4 awardee and received the Principal's School Leadership Award; and Chad Andrei Llanora Acollador, who was given the PTSA Award. Acollador was also seventh in his class.

The Top 10 awardees, in order from first to last were Nuera, Ali, Reyes, Mabansag, Guillermina Rose Cruz San Nicolas, Ismail Imran Veri Hossain, Acollador, Christian Carlo Libut Sanchez, Jun Jie Luo, and Gio Palmitos Vergara.

School alumna and current TJSHS vice principal Nikita Mendiola, who was the keynote speaker at the graduation, encouraged the TJSHS Class

of 2023 to continue to be teachable, honest, respectful, and to never stop learning, reminding them that they are in control of their destiny and success.

"You all have grown so much since you were my students in the classroom, and I am so proud of who each and every one of you have become, no matter how much you doubt your own successes. You have overcome great obstacles these past few years, and I never once doubted your abilities to overcome them."



RYAN MICHAEL ACHACOSO NUERA
Valedictorian



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EXTENSION OF JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 03-2023

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Closing date: June 02, 2023

Location: SAIPAN

Position(s): (1) ARFF Mechanic II
(1) Custodial-I
(1) Equipment Operator-I
(1) General Maintenance-I
(1) Master Electrician
(2) Ports Police Trainee

SALARY

PL 6/1 to 6/12 (\$9.27/hr to \$15.85/hr)
PL 1/1 to 1/12 (\$7.26/hr to \$12.42/hr)
PL 4/1 to 4/12 (\$8.41/hr to \$14.38/hr)
PL 3/1 to 3/12 (\$8.01/hr to \$13.70/hr)
PL 19/1 to 19/12 (17.48/hr to \$29.90/hr)
PL 5/1 (\$8.83/hr)

Location: TINIAN

Position(s): (1) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance-I
(1) Custodial-I

SALARY

PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr to \$15.10/hr)
PL 1/1 to 1/12 (\$7.26/hr to \$12.42/hr)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, June 02, 2023.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Student participants and organizers have their picture taken after the PSS Mental Health's Youth Poetry Slam last April 27, 2023, at the Tinian Junior Senior High School cafeteria.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 23-080

Opening Date: May 26, 2023

Closing Date: June 09, 2023

POSITION TITLE:
DEPARTMENT:
LOCATION:
ANNUAL SALARY:
CONTRACT:
POSITION(S):

Trades Assistant
Wastewater Division
Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
\$16,742.00 to \$22,602.00 per annum, Non- Exempt
Not Contracted
One (1)

The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the Wastewater Division.

Duties:

- The Trades Assistant assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools.
- Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues.
- Responds to trouble calls as needed.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities.
- Monitor and perform preventive maintenance on sewer lines, manholes, and lift stations.
- Assist in taking treatment plant readings and performing adjustments.
- Cleans, maintains, repairs and paints submersible pumps.
- Lifts, inspects and replace submersible pumps.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education.

Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Principles and procedures of service area assigned; Inspecting and troubleshooting principles; Preventive maintenance principles; Inventory control principles.

Skills in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing/Certification:

- Valid U.S. Driver's License with appropriate class;

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131

CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Andersen AFB updates on services post Typhoon Mawar

By AUBREE OWENS
36TH WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam—Members of Team Andersen continue to prevail in the wake of Typhoon Mawar and persevere through the lack of services across the island; meanwhile, Brig. Gen. Paul Fast, 36th Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Nicholas Taylor, 36th Wing command chief, held a town hall to address any questions with the help of experts across this installation at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, on May 29, 2023.

Five days have passed since the direct passing of Typhoon Mawar over Guam and members are still trying to recover. Services are preparing to reopen and the installation continues with recovery efforts, restoring the base to mission-ready status and ensuring the safety and well-being of all members of Team Andersen.

At the town hall Fast announced the 36th Wing’s top five priorities: 1. Establish command, control and communications 2. Sustainment of life 3. Open the airfield 4. Help the Guam community 5. Recover facilities.

“Members are working diligently around the clock to get all facilities up and running on base,” said Fast.

Establishments such as food services, personnel services, medical services and morale, welfare and recreation services started to reopen on base. For more information regarding what is open and their adjusted hours, a graphic will be updated regularly on the Andersen AFB Facebook page.

Andersen AFB’s runway remains intact with the ability for daytime operations; one U.S. Coast Guard HC-130J Hercules arrived on May 26 with divers to assist in assessment and cleanup efforts in Apra Harbor and one C-17A Globemaster III brought Federal Emergency Management Agency personnel to assist with relief efforts on May 27. Pacific Air Forces continues to closely monitor the situation here in Guam and prepares to send more support.

“I am so proud of the team and their efforts thus far,” said Fast.

Although most residents and facilities on base have power and water, members are asked to conserve water as power and water systems are not yet fully restored. For those on base who do not have power or water, contact your chain of command. Additionally, if members reside off-base, follow Guam Waterworks Authority and Guam Power Authority for the most up-to-date information.

Currently, the gas station on

Andersen AFB is staging to reopen fully, but services will be limited to different groups, such as first responders, emergency services and active duty at first. There are limited gas stations on island that are open, so members of Team Andersen are asked to conserve gas as much as possible at this time.

Access to base is limited to Common Access Card ID card holders for active duty, guard and reserve members and their dependents, and contractors (by exception) at this time. More updates will be posted as the status changes to welcome other DOD ID card holders in the near future. Arc Light and Northwest Field gates are now open 24 hours, the North Gate is open Monday to Friday from 6am to 6pm, and the Santa Rita gate is closed until further notice. The Visitor Control Center and Pass & ID office are both closed until further notice and no new passes are able to be issued at this time. For more information, call the base defense operations center at (671) 366-2910.

For members who were originally scheduled for the Patriot Express flight from Guam to Seattle on May 28, the new departure date was yesterday, May 30. Contact the Andersen AFB Passenger Terminal website for additional updates and information, 671-366-2097 or visit their website: <https://www.amc.af.mil/AMC-Travel--Site/Terminals/PACOM-Terminals/Andersen-afb-Passenger-Terminal/>.



U.S. AIR FORCE/SENIOR AIRMAN KAITLYN PRESTON
U.S. Air Force service members, civilian employees and dependents listen to base condition updates during a town hall following Super Typhoon Mawar at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, May 29, 2023.

have, how far we have come, and how this community has come together,” said Taylor. “You are all great Americans.”

Chapel services are available now, and Chapel 1, Chapel 2 and the USO all have WiFi for members to utilize. The base has limited cell service and Wi-Fi currently, so members are encouraged to stay plugged in and visit these locations as needed.

“I am grateful for what we do

fication, reach out to 36th Wing Public Affairs at 671-366-2228. “The military presence [in] Guam and throughout the region remains postured to defend our Pacific homeland. We prepared properly and we are working closely with the government of Guam to recover quickly and comprehensively. We will get through this together and will remain Forward Edge strong,” said Fast.

Another town hall was held yesterday, May 30, at the Meehan Conference Center for those with base access, including spouses, who were unable to make it the earlier town hall and more information will be shared as it becomes available. For additional information or for clarification,

Text notifications from CHCC Immunization Program

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.’s Immunization Program will launch SMS text messaging reminders and notifications for people living in the CNMI on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The purpose of these messages is to encourage the community to stay up-to-date with their immunizations and

vaccine/office information. This service will go live this week of May 29, 2023.

What kinds of reminders or notifications can I receive?

SMS messages will be sent from +1 (888) 627-9613. We recommend saving this number in your contacts to ensure you are receiving official SMS text messages from the Immunization Program.

■ Child routine reminders: Designed for parents to receive text message reminders before your child’s immunizations are due (based on the 2023 Recommended Immunizations for Children by the American Academy of Pediatrics and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

■ COVID-19 vaccine appointment reminders: Designed for patients of all ages (i.e., infants, children, teens, and adults) to receive text message reminders for a future immunization appointment date that has already been scheduled.

■ Other notifications: Designed for anyone to receive text message reminders that includes information about our clinic or vaccine updates.

When will I get the reminders?

You will receive SMS messages reminding you of upcoming recommended vaccines and future immunization appoint-

ments. The timing of these texts depends on the birthdate of the individual needing vaccines or a scheduled future appointment reminder (i.e., vaccine series requiring multiple doses).

Who should use this service?

Individuals living in the CNMI who use a mobile device. IT&E and Docomo users will not be charged.

Where can I get my child vaccinated?

Vaccines are available at the CHCC Immunization Clinic, Outpatient clinics (Children’s Clinic, Women’s Clinic, and Family Care Clinic), Tinian Health Center, Rota Health Center, outreach events, and/or partner clinics (MMC, MAP, KCHC). Individuals can also get vaccinated at their clinic.

If you wish to opt out of these SMS text reminders, visit our CHCC Immunization Clinic or contact (670) 236-8745, Monday to Saturday, 7:30am to 4:30pm.

2023 Recommended Immunizations for Children 0-6 years : www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/downloads/parent-ver-sch-0-6yrs.pdf

2023 Recommended Immunization for Children 6-17 years: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/teen/parent-version-schedule-7-18yrs.pdf (CHCC)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 23 – 049 (REANNOUNCEMENT)

Opening Date: May 26, 2023
Closing Date: June 09, 2023

POSITION TITLE:	Trades Technician
DEPARTMENT:	Water Division (Electrical Section)
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$20,826.00 to \$28,115.00 per annum, Non-Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department.

Duties:

- Performs maintenance, operations, installations and/or repairs in assigned area of responsibility; provides technical guidance regarding assigned functions; and ensures quality service levels in accordance with proper procedures.
- Provides assistance in monitoring regulatory compliance.
- Operates specialized and heavy equipment; performs maintenance activities and skilled repairs to equipment, infrastructure and/or other items of assigned area of responsibility.
- Identifies issues and operational concerns; performs inspections; provides troubleshooting; evaluates corrective measures or options; recommends and implements solutions and corrective actions.
- Receives customer inquiries and trouble calls; responds to requests and provides information or status updates.
- Monitors inventory and supplies; maintains required supply levels; initiates requests for the replenishment of materials and supplies; cleans, organizes and maintains work and supply areas.
- Takes readings of equipment; maintains records, logs, orders and data; and prepares reports.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma or General Education Diploma or Adult Basic Education Program and 4 years of experience related to area of assignment.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing skilled maintenance, operations and repair work in assigned area; Reviewing quality levels and providing technical guidance in assigned area; Operating specialized and heavy equipment; Monitoring equipment and making adjustments; Performing inspections and identifying issues; Troubleshooting issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Receiving requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Monitoring inventory and supplies; Initiating supply requests; Taking equipment readings and maintaining reading data; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing/Certification:

- Valid U.S. Driver's License with appropriate class;
- Trades Licenses and/or Certifications, based on assignment;
- Water/Wastewater Treatment and Distribution Certifications, based on assignment.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Guam disaster declaration amended to authorize additional federal assistance

WASHINGTON, D.C.— President Joe Biden amended the Major Disaster Declaration for Guam on Sunday, authorizing additional federal assistance to disaster survivors to help aid in their recovery from Typhoon Mawar.

Survivors who are uninsured or underinsured can register for assistance that may include funding to repair or replace their homes, temporary housing, access to low-interest loans or other programs to help them jumpstart their recovery.

Guam residents can register for federal assistance by visiting DisasterAssistance.gov, through the FEMA App, or by calling 800-621-FEMA (3362). Residents who use a relay service, such as video relay or captioned telephone service, can give the FEMA operator the number for that service. FEMA is working with local and territorial officials to determine Disaster Recovery Center locations. Once open, survivors can visit these centers to receive one-on-one help with their disaster registration process and emergency assistance.

Nearly 550 FEMA personnel are supporting response and recovery efforts in Guam and the CNMI, with 240 staff in Guam. Additional Disaster Assistance Support Team staff are being deployed to Guam to help survivors register for federal assistance.

After a disaster, people want to help, but it's important to donate responsibly. When people support voluntary organizations with financial contributions, it helps ensure a steady flow of important services to the people in need. You can find a voluntary organization to support by visiting the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster's website at NVOAD.org [https://www.nvoad.org/]. FEMA is coordinating with its network of Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster to provide support and humanitarian aid. Feeding and bottled water operations continue as needed and requested by the territory and the commonwealth officials:

■ Team Rubicon deployed a coordination team to Guam to coordinate with officials to understand all unmet needs.

■ The Salvation Army, in partnership with the Southern Baptists Disaster Teams, also deployed personnel to Guam where they are supporting local officials in recovery efforts.

■ Amazon Disaster Relief is delivering donations of water filters, mosquito netting and other essential items.

■ Catholic Charities is supporting three different on-island shelters and a local food pantry.

■ The Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation is collaborating with local restaurants to provide feeding for survivors.

■ The Red Cross has more than 100 responders operating

on the island and another 70 responders en route. Red Cross priorities include distribution of financial assistance, distribution of emergency supplies, to include pet food, and support to community-run shelters.

■ The American Red Cross of Guam hotline is operational: 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) for anyone trying to reach friends or relatives who are on the island.

Federal, territorial, Commonwealth and voluntary actions

■ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers power restoration teams continue critical facility generator assessments including for water and wastewater systems, 911 call centers, fire departments and correctional institutes.

■ The Guam Power Authority continues its restoration efforts, reporting more than 21% of customer demand is restored, with crews working 24-hour shifts. The authority is working on restoring substations, which will substantially increase power to more residents.

■ The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. reports that it has restored power to more than 90% of its customers on Rota, while Saipan and Tinian are fully energized.

■ The Guam Waterworks Authority continues restoration efforts, reporting 50% of water systems and four of nine wastewater facilities are operational. All water services are now restored on Rota.

■ More than 40% of cell towers are now operational in Guam, with 60% of cell sites



U.S. NAVY/MCS1 JUSTIN WOLPERT

Builder 3rd Class Tyler Machado, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion One uses a chainsaw to remove fallen trees from a road following Typhoon Mawar.

operational on Rota.

■ Shelters remain open in Guam an overnight population of more than 750.

■ The U.S. Coast Guard is restoring ports and waterways and the Port of Guam opened Sunday for all commercial and cargo traffic. The U.S. Coast Guard is also assessing pollution in the waterways.

■ The National Disaster Distress Helpline remains activated and anyone who has been affected by Typhoon Mawar can call 1-800-985-5990 for immediate counseling and support.

■ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

deployed nearly 70 emergency responders and four personnel from the U.S. Marshals Service. The personnel include three Health and Medical Task Forces from the National Disaster Medical System that are assisting local hospitals and medical clinics.

Safety messages

■ Residents who are returning home, should be cautious when cleaning and making repairs:

■ Wear protective clothing and appropriate face coverings or masks if cleaning mold or other debris, and always work with someone else.

■ Document any damage with photographs if possible and contact your insurance

company so you can quickly file a claim.

■ As power remains unrestored in many areas, residents using power generators should always use them outside to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

■ To learn more about the Typhoon Mawar response and recovery efforts, visit FEMA.gov. (FEMA)



U.S. NAVY/MCS1 JUSTIN WOLPERT

Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class Geoff Piegen, from Chattanooga, Tennessee, launches an RQ-20B Puma drone to survey damage caused by Typhoon Mawar.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP23-CHCC/LABORATORY-013A
"ADDENDUM"**

Extension of Submission Date

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JUNE 12th, 2023 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"LABORATORY EXPANSION PROJECT #2"
(Coordinate, Design, Oversight Monitoring and Construction) for CHC Hospital/Laboratory Department

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 23 – 082

Opening Date: May 26, 2023
Closing Date: June 09, 2023

POSITION TITLE:
DEPARTMENT:
LOCATION:
ANNUAL SALARY:

**Dispatch Coordinator Communications Equipment Specialist
Administration
Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA
\$27,456.00 - \$37,066.00 per annum, Non-Exempt
(commensurate with Education & Experience)
Not Contracted
One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Compliance Administrator or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Responsible for overseeing the operations of the radio control and maintenance
- Expected to be a part of the Response Assistance Coordinators (R.A.C.) Team as part of the First Responders during times of Emergency Declaration as assigned by the Compliance Administrator.
- Supervises the operations, functions, issuance, and repairs of the radio communications equipment of CUC.
- Provides advisement to the Compliance Administrator on needed purchases or upgrades on radio communication equipment due to damages and/or if equipment is obsolete.
- Develops and implements operating policies and procedures pertaining to dispatch/radio communications.
- Develops and administers the radio control and maintenance budget.
- Administers FCC radio licenses ensuring radio operators are in compliance with rules and regulations.
- Monitors radio usage at all times to ensure compliance with FCC rules.
- Serves as the weather monitor and advisor for administration by tracking weather disturbances and keeping administration advised of any pending weather problems.
- Prepares monthly reports and correspondences for the Compliance Administrator.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements: Any combination equivalent to a Bachelor's Degree in a related field and five (5) years of progressively responsible communications and radio control experience.

Knowledge of: FCC license requirements and regulatory laws; Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances (based on assignment); Customer Supervisory principles; Basic budgeting principles; Customer service techniques; Telephone etiquette; Radio communications procedures; Electronic equipment; Radios; filing and recordkeeping principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Basic inventory and supplies maintenance practices; Modern office technology. Strong interpersonal and communication skills, clerical skills, and moderate computer proficiency.

Skills in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Developing and administering budgets; Developing and implementing standard operating procedures; Reading schematics and diagrams; Troubleshooting, maintaining and repairing malfunctioning equipment; Provide customer service; Using two-way radios; Preparing correspondence and reports; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with co-workers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing: Valid Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources Department located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday, 7:30 am - 4:30 pm (except legal holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Opinion

Hafa Adahi

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Republicans need to dump Trump if they want to win

Two functional political parties shouldn't be too much to ask of American democracy. At the moment, though, one of them is toying with outright disaster.

By any sane calculation, Donald Trump should not be the Republican Party's nominee for the 2024 presidential campaign. Trump is worth opposing for all the familiar reasons, including the chaos, corruption and manifest incompetence that characterized his first term. Even ignoring all that, rejecting him is in Republicans' self-interest.

Electorally, Trump is (to borrow a phrase) a loser. He's the first president since the Great Depression to have lost the House, Senate and Oval Office in a single term. In 2020, he not only squandered the advantages of incumbency but underperformed the average Republican statewide candidate in eight of 12 battleground states. With control of the Senate at stake in two Georgia runoffs, Trump then spent weeks claiming the election was a fraud and that Georgia state officials were complicit in it. Many GOP strategists agree he likely gave the chamber—and hence unified control of government—to the Democrats.

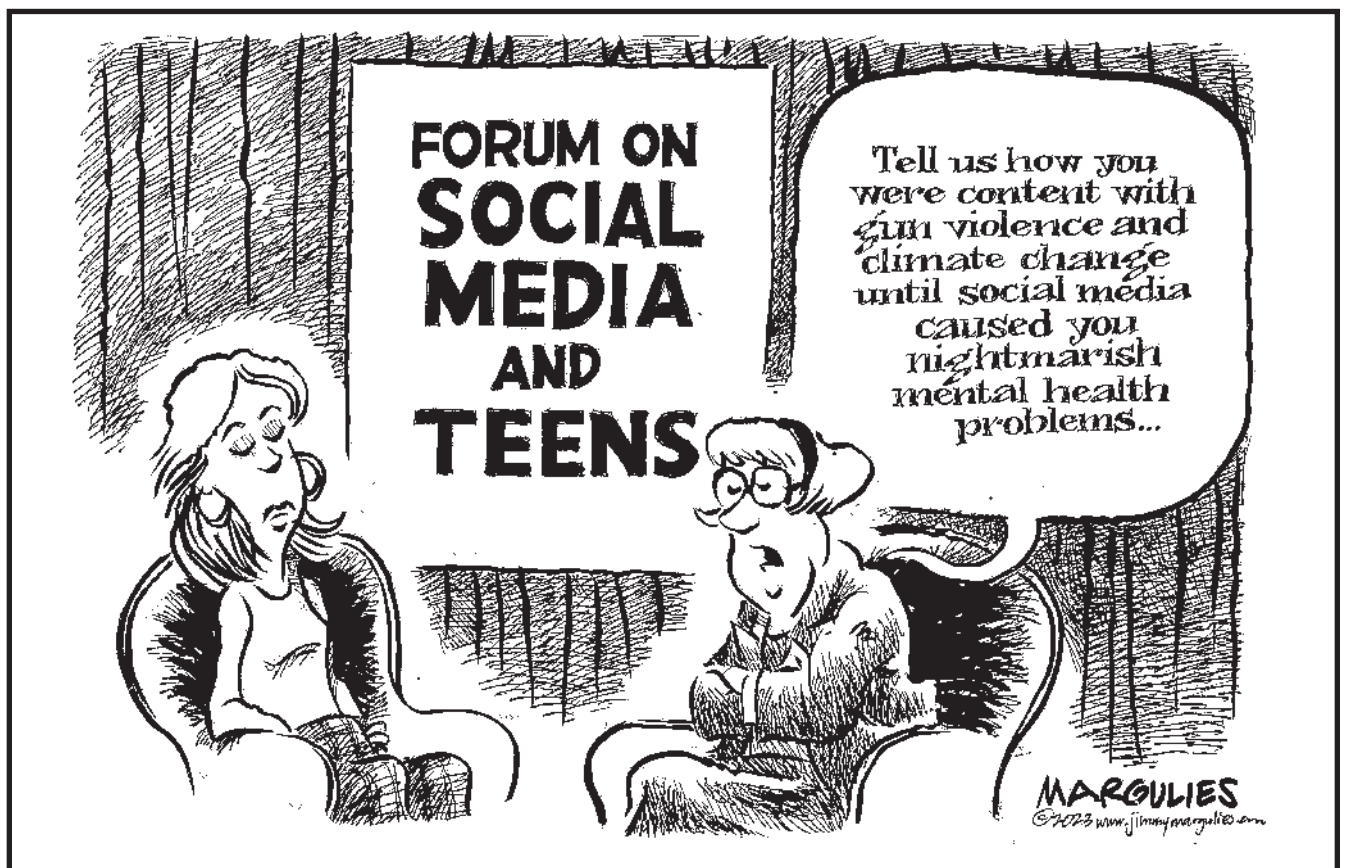
In last year's midterms the story was the same. An analysis of statewide contests found that candidates who had denied the legitimacy of the 2020 election results—Trump's main preoccupation since leaving office—underperformed by an average of 2.3 percentage points. In competitive races, his preferred candidates underperformed their expected baselines by about 5 percentage points. Even that understates the damage: By touting inexperienced or implausible candidates in otherwise winnable contests, Trump probably cost his party several governors' mansions and (once again) the Senate.

Looking ahead, things get worse. A poll last month found that 70% of Americans—including 63% of independents and 44% of Republicans—don't want Trump to run for office again. Another survey found that putting Trump at the top of the ticket would give a five-point advantage to Democratic congressional candidates, a swing that would almost certainly give them control of the House.

Trump himself remains remarkably unpopular, with a favorability rating about 10 points underwater. This seems unlikely to improve. In the past two months, he has been indicted on 34 felony fraud counts and found liable for sexual abuse and defamation in a civil suit. A special counsel is investigating him for mishandling classified documents, attempting to unlawfully retain power, and inciting a riot at the Capitol. Officials in Georgia are probing him for election interference. He is currently being sued by his niece (on appeal), the New York state attorney general, a group of former investors, 11 lawmakers, at least 10 Capitol Police officers, two Washington cops, and the NAACP.

"We need to come up with an alternative," Republican Senator John Cornyn said last week, understating matters.

The party has plenty of other options, including Ron DeSantis, Tim Scott, Nikki Haley and Mike Pence. And it faces a crossroads next year. It could be a party of ideas—for

See **REPUBLICANS** on Page 9

Ending masking requirements in hospitals and clinics is a step backward for health care

Recently, many of the hospitals and clinics in and around Chicago, including my own, have elected to discontinue universal masking requirements, noting the lowest rates of COVID-19 in the last three years. This is being hailed as a sign of moving on from the COVID-19 pandemic. But is it really "moving on?" Or moving backward?

For the last three years, patients have received masked care. While hearing and speech impaired individuals definitely benefit from unmasked communication, the majority of patients have gotten better care because of those masks. There's no doubt that universal masking blunted influenza and other respiratory virus spread in Chicago during the first two years of the pandemic, and the same has been true in health care.

Many people find masking annoying or uncomfortable and don't worry much about catching a cold here and there. But hospitals and clinics are places where the sick congregate with the vulnerable, and masking is the least burdensome way to make that safer for everyone.

In the absence of universal masking, health care organizations are required to follow "transmission-based precautions" and "standard precautions" both of which have been around for decades. This strategy relies on everyone (patients, visitors and health care workers) to correctly self-identify when they have respiratory virus symptoms, test appropriately, isolate according to recommendations and wear a mask in the medical center. This was our main way of protecting patients from influenza, RSV, the common cold, tuberculosis, whooping cough and many other nasty infections before COVID-19 came along.

Now that we have COVID to worry about as well, the stakes are even higher if someone (patient, visitor, or health care worker) fails to realize that their allergy symptoms could actually be an infection. It also relies on people to report a recent COVID-19 exposure or high risk activity (such as travel or attending a crowded indoor event) and voluntarily don a mask at the entrance even though they feel fine. Given the current attitude of many toward COVID-19 (to ignore it), is this really the right strategy for health care?

Pre-COVID-19, I recall sitting in pediatrics waiting rooms with my (then) young child trying to figure out which kids were there for "well child" visits and which ones were sick. The last thing I wanted to bring home was another cold, more missed days of school and the stress of arranging for emergency child care.

As a physician, I know that every patient going for surgery is told that the risks include infection but that these are rare and the staff do everything possible to minimize them. But what if your nurse in

By EMILY LANDON
Chicago Tribune

Dr. Emily Landon is an associate professor of infectious diseases and the executive medical director of Infection Prevention and Control at the University of Chicago Medicine. In this piece, she speaks for herself and not on behalf of the university or the hospital.



pre-op has a cold? Not even COVID-19. Just a cold. Not a big deal, right? Try coughing with a fresh abdominal wound.

Before COVID-19 we did not do everything we could to avoid your catching an infection in health care. We did everything we thought we could at the time. We know better now.

A universal source-control masking strategy is a harm reduction approach that asks everyone to wear at least low-quality masks to reduce the amount of COVID-19, tuberculosis, influenza, rhinovirus, adenovirus, metapneumovirus, measles, mumps, etc. in the air around them, whether they know they have infection or not.

It works much like the myriad other things we do in health care to protect you even if we may not know for sure that you need it, like hand washing, gloves, and cleaning rooms with bleach. We can't easily tell when these things are needed and when we can safely skip them, so we do them for everyone, every time.

These kinds of interventions have reduced spread of multidrug-resistant organisms, decreased device related infections, and generally made health care safer, paving the way for more complex medical treatments and procedures. Without progress in infection prevention, many of the things we are able to do today (cancer treatments, transplants, complex surgeries) would not be possible because the risk of infection would be prohibitive.

Unmasking in health care in order to "give health care workers a break from masks" or "keep up with what others are doing" is like saying we are going to provide the best health care 2019 has to offer.

Yes, masks can be annoying and uncomfortable and there are definitely a few situations where we should ditch them for the sake of good communication. But they aren't much different from gloves, electronic medical record best practice alerts, hand washing, bar code medication administration, fall precautions, medication reconciliation, or pharmacy verification—and you deserve every single one of them.

Universal masking blunted influenza and other respiratory virus spread...during the first two years of the pandemic, and the same has been true in health care.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Up to \$10,444 in-kind: Work experience and on-the-job training support

As far as training programs go, the Work Experience Training and On-the-Job Training programs through the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation under the Governor's Office are about as straightforward as they come. The only mystery for me is why more eligible persons with disabilities and employers aren't knocking on OVR's doors to avail of the support, which can translate to \$10,444 in up to a year's worth of paid labor.

More specifically, given eligible, willing, and agreeable participants (both trainee and employer), OVR will pay eligible individuals for Work Experience Training at the prevailing minimum wage rate (presently \$7.25/hour) for up to 20 hours per week for anywhere from three to six months. And thereafter, if the employer is willing to employ them, OVR will reimburse the employer for On-the-Job Training at the same rate for up to 40 hours a week for 24 weeks. In total the employee and employer stand to get 48 weeks of paid labor in the hopes of permanent employment (emphasis on "in the hopes"—the employer is not obligated to hire the person after the training period, but that is the goal).

Come to think of it, I probably shouldn't be too surprised and it may not be such a mystery at all why we don't see more interest in these programs. I'll take a stab at a few possible reasons here for whatever it's worth. It's natural (maybe even advisable) when pointing a finger at an issue not to acknowledge the three other fingers pointing back at yourself and perhaps this will be a break from tradition, but given plenty of blame to go around I'll be the first to admit that much of it falls directly on ourselves; in fact, let's start there.

Government bureaucracy

Let's start with government bureaucracy. Yeah...I said it and for emphasis I'm talking about myself and other bureaucrats who work in government with the general government systems in place. For a variety of reasons, we have not done a very good job of instilling confidence in the rest of those who look to the government for help. Put another way, government has a longstanding reputation of

being slow, if not unresponsive, and inefficient (with time and resources). OVR is no exception, so we have our share of disgruntled clients. Wait times (whether you're standing in lines, waiting for appointments, listening to elevator music on the phone, or sitting at home twiddling your thumbs) are simply too common. Most have come to expect that of government—sad, but true. That in and of itself can be a disincentive for people to seek us out.

I know better than to make promises, but I can say with some confidence that OVR can be the exception to the norm (if it is, in fact, a norm). We are poised with qualified personnel and a wealth of institutional (local and federal government) knowledge to rise above the fold. Our sitting governor and lieutenant governor have expressed in no uncertain terms their expectations for us to ensure and/or restore "fiscal stability, more efficient government operations, and improvements in the delivery and responsiveness of public services." Personally, I would love nothing more than to be a part of making that happen, not just for OVR but for our government in general. What we need is more consistent buy-in to the real intent of what we offer both from potential employers and from eligible individuals with disabilities who truly want to work.

Welfare culture

There is a pervasive sense of entitlement in our society due in large part to generational dependence on welfare programs—a welfare culture or welfare state of mind, if you will. And, our people with disabilities are not immune to it; in fact, all too many are brought up to think very little beyond government handouts as their primary, if not only, option. Given a choice to receive something for free or go to work and earn what you get, most will choose the free option. This is especially true when it comes to receiving a Supplemental Security Income check versus getting a job and receiving a paycheck. The truth is that a monthly SSI check (at \$914 for an eligible individual or \$1,371 for an eligible individual with a spouse) is nearly the same amount (maybe even more depending on deductions) as a paycheck for someone working full-time at the minimum wage rate;

MY GLASS CUP

By JIM RAYPHAND

Special to the Saipan Tribune



James M. Rayphand is the director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and is a former executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.

it's hard to blame anyone who chooses the SSI option. Still, the harder truth is that the prescribed "federal poverty level" is still higher than the SSI rate which (by the way) also comes with an asset limit. The point being that conceding to life on SSI is essentially a commitment to a life of poverty.

Of course, I am not without empathy. I understand the added challenges to competitive employment for people with disabilities and the fear of losing benefits through gainful employment; nonetheless, if we are ever going to break the cycles of dependence, employment must be part of our ongoing discussion and, essentially, OVR must provide needed supports to eligible individuals in order for them to obtain or retain gainful employment.

Disability stigma

Sadly, people with disabilities are most often viewed by what others perceive they cannot do more than what they can do; disability discrimination is a very real thing. Many employers (I dare say most employers) dismiss even the mere notion that a person with a disability, especially those with visible, severe disabilities, could offer any value in the workplace. The common assumption is that any person with a disability must be a basket case—of course, we all know what it means to assume.

Truth be told, attitudes are the real problem—both the attitudes of the job seekers and the job providers. In fact, the same is true regardless of whether or not disability is a factor. Breaking into an already meager job market requires genuine effort, a certain amount of luck and—to be clear—a sense of responsibility to be qualified for the work at hand. And yes, people with disabilities also have a responsibility to be qualified.

For more information, contact the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation at (670) 322-6537/38 or online www.ovrgov.net or on Facebook.com/officeofvocationalrehabilitation.

A spectacular celebration of nature's fiery splendor

Saipan is a true treasure trove of natural beauty and historical significance in the Northern Mariana Islands. The island's breathtaking scenery, crystal-clear waters, and gently swaying palm trees are a stunning backdrop for its annual Flame Tree Arts Festival. This lively and vibrant celebration brings the community together.

The magnificent tree, also known as the "Pride of Saipan," boasts vibrant fiery red and orange hues that transform the landscape into a breathtaking tapestry of color. When the tropical sun shines down upon the island, these trees burst into full bloom, their radiant beauty spreading far and wide. It's truly a sight to behold and draws visitors worldwide to experience the wonder of nature at its finest.

The Flame Tree Arts Festival is an annual event that goes beyond appreciating this botanical's beauty. It is also a grand celebration of the rich artistic traditions that have become integral to Saipan's cultural heritage.

The people of Saipan embraced the tree as a sacred symbol of love and culture. Traditional dances, striking colors, and musical chants fill the festival with joy and unity. The festival is a vibrant celebration featuring various cultural events highlighting the island's heritage. The streets come alive with colorful parades, where locals dressed in traditional attire dance and sing, mirroring the elegant movements of the tree's swaying branches.

Saipan attracts artists and food lovers during its festival.

Flame trees inspire art, while food stalls offer unique island flavors in tasty dishes. The aroma of local delicacies wafts through the air as food stalls entice visitors with delectable dishes infused with the island's tastes.

The Flame Tree Arts Festival is a remarkable experience that has a lasting impact on those who experience it. It inspires a deep appreciation for the natural beauty and cultural diversity of Saipan and encourages a sense of environmental responsibility. This festival also promotes a deep sense of appreciation for the beautiful and awe-inspiring natural features of the island. The objective is to inspire individuals to recognize the importance of actively protecting and preserving the environment for future generations. We want to create a sustainable and thriving ecosystem that benefits us all by fostering this profound gratitude and sense of responsibility.

This festive occasion also unites people from diverse backgrounds and cultures, fostering community and togetherness. Coming together as a community to commemorate and rejoice in shared values and traditions foster a vibrant atmosphere that strengthens and upholds the cultural heritage.

As the festival unfolds each year, the people of Saipan gather under the embracing branches of the Flame Tree, their hearts alight with the flame of love and their souls nourished by the profound connection between culture, tradition, and love.

The Flame Trees are a testament to the harmonious co-

By ROSEMARIE D. EMBILE

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Rosemarie D. Embile is a teacher at the Northern Marianas International School.

existence of nature and culture, and they continue to captivate the hearts of those who have the privilege of witnessing their unparalleled beauty.






REPUBLICANS

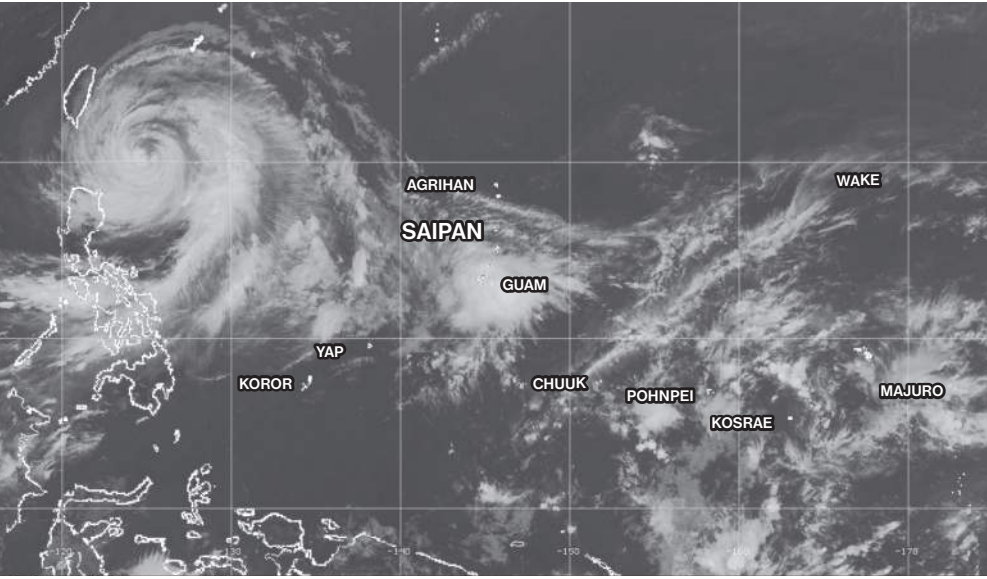
From Page 8

supporting families, promoting free markets, boosting growth, navigating new technologies, maintaining law and order, and more—that could invigorate the campaign and give voters a serious alternative to President Joe Biden. Or it could succumb once again to the Trump show, a cascade of vanity, ineptitude and gross misconduct that very nearly destroyed the American constitutional order.

Really, it shouldn't be a difficult choice.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Isolated showers. The rain could be heavy at times. Mostly cloudy		Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. Cloudy		Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. Cloudy		Scattered showers and thunderstorms after noon. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. Mostly cloudy		Isolated showers. Partly sunny	
84°	80°	85°	81°	84°	81°	85°	78°	85°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:00 AM, TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms west of Guam and Rota with isolated showers and thunderstorms west of Tinian and Saipan. These will push through the Marianas today. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 5 to 7 feet composed of a large trade-wind swell and a smaller northwest typhoon swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:45 AM	6:43 PM
Thursday	5:45 AM	6:43 PM
Friday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Saturday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Sunday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:32 AM	3:06 PM
Thursday	-	3:09 AM	3:58 PM
Friday	-	3:48 AM	4:53 PM
Saturday	-	4:33 AM	5:53 PM
Sunday	-	5:24 AM	6:57 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	62° / 54°	
Beijing	Cloudy	82° / 61°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 81°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83° / 73°	
London	Cloudy	69° / 48°	
Los Angeles	Cloudy	66° / 57°	
Manila	Thunderstorms/Wind	92° / 83°	
Melbourne	Cloudy	64° / 53°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°	
New York	Sunny	72° / 53°	
Osaka	Showers	71° / 59°	
Paris	Mostly Sunny	80° / 58°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	70° / 61°	
Rome	Thundershowers	76° / 59°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	82° / 64°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	61° / 53°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	83° / 63°	
Tokyo	Rain	66° / 58°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	77° / 53°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:22 AM	High Tide	1.98	
11:16 AM	Low Tide	0.57	
5:33 PM	High Tide	1.65	
10:50 PM	Low Tide	1.03	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 30, 2023							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Business

Meals 4 U now *grills* for you

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The new delicious smoky aroma near Texas Road in Susupe comes from none other than Meals 4 U's new barbecue stand.

Co-owner Rodelyn Quimsing said Meals 4 U recently expanded its offerings by opening a fully enclosed barbecue stand right next to the restaurant.

Aside from its bestselling crispy kare-kare, lechon kawali, dinuguan (fritada), and bopis, Meals 4 U now sells pork,



Master griller Butch Sublemente barbecues a fresh batch of pork skewers.

MARK RABAGO

chicken, pork isaw, pork ears, and chicken feet skewers.

And since they already have a barbecue stand, Meals 4 U also offers grilled fish, stuffed squid, pork liempo, and chicken inasal but requires advance orders.

Quimsing said they expanded Meals 4 U's offerings because of the enormous popularity of barbecue on Saipan as no gathering is complete without skewers on the party table spread.

Adding a barbecue stand was the farthest from Quimsing and his partners' plans when they started Meals 4 U in Sept. 28, 2021.

She said the main motivation behind the Filipino-Asian fusion restaurant was being jobless at that time.

"Without work, our brains never stopped thinking on how to survive during the pandemic. Personally, I thought of making puto with a twist and came up with different flavors like puto pao, puto ube, puto leche, puto banana, puto nutella, puto choc-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Meals 4 U's crispy kare-kare.



MARK RABAGO

Meals 4 U and its barbecue stand is located in the former Ahbu Auto Repair Shop building at the corner of Hagoi Street and Texas Road in Susupe.

olate, pichi-pichi, and kuchinta which I first sold to friends."

The home business eventually grew and together with the success of one of the other owners of Meals 4 U selling Filipino food staples like lumpia, palabok, and laing, the idea of opening Meals 4 U was formed.

"So I asked my sister and my friend if they would be interested in putting up a business without even thinking of the risk we're about to take. It's the love for food and our eagerness to make a difference during the difficult times that Meals 4 U was born," said Quimsing.

Nearly two years after opening, Meals 4 U has elevated itself from the crowd of Filipino carinderias on island with its well-thought home-cooked meals with a menu changing every week.

"What we serve this week won't be available for the next few weeks unless customers request it," she said.

Meals 4 U does have daily favorites such as the aforementioned dinuguan every Monday, bopis every Tuesday, grilled stuffed jumbo squid

every Wednesday, and crispy kare-kare every Thursday.

"That crispy lechon kawali on top of our creamy, peanut sauce and bagoong will definitely make you come back for more. Not to brag but it gets sold out in no time," Quimsing said about the crispy kare-kare.

Aside from these certified chart-toppers, customers have also been coming back for Meals 4 U's crispy eggplant, tofu sisig, buttered chicken, orange chicken, and Korean fried chicken.

Quimsing also encourages everyone to try their sinaing na galunggong, which is a famous savory, tangy, and fruity flavored dish from Batangas in the Philippines.

Meals 4 U is located in the former Ahbu Auto Repair Shop building at the corner of Hagoi Street and Texas Road in Susupe. It can comfortably seat 20 customers and is open from Monday to Friday, from 7:30am to 3pm (closed on holidays). For more information or for advance orders, call (670) 588-1886 or (670) 285-4811 or check out their Facebook page.

FOR ROTA AND GUAM

BOG to defer payments for consumer loan, personal credit cards

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam announces automatic deferment of payments for Personal Loans and Personal Credit Cards for Guam and Rota accounts.

Payments will automatically defer for three calendar months regardless of account status. No action will be required by customers to take advantage of the payment deferral. Customers with scheduled automatic deductions or payments will need to arrange for those payments to pause during the deferral period.

Affected customers on Saipan and Tinian may request deferment arrangements at any of our branch locations or by emailing consumerbanking@bankofguam.com.

Customers who wish to continue making their regularly scheduled payments may do so.

CONSUMER LOANS

■ FTMs or auto payments via a Bank of Guam account

Customers who want to move their transfer date from their Bank of Guam account can email the Loan Support Department at LS.maintenance@bankofguam.com or call our Familia Contact Center for assistance at (671) 472-5300.

■ FTMs or auto payments via all other bank accounts

Requests to move their transfer date that pull from accounts with other financial institutions must be made 4

business days prior to the next scheduled transfer date.

■ Payroll deductions

Customers that have payroll deductions should contact their employer to temporarily stop payroll deductions during the deferral period.

■ Recurring transfers via online banking

Customers that have scheduled recurring transfers through online banking who wish to pause upcoming transfers should log into their online banking accounts and adjust their next payment date.

CREDIT CARDS

■ Recurring payments made directly via ezcardinio.com Customers that have set up auto payments through ezcardinio.com will have to make an adjustment to their next payment date. Please note, any changes will have to be made before their due date.

Customers with mortgage or commercial loans may email

■ mortgagebanking@bankofguam.com or commercialbanking@bankofguam.com for any questions on deferment options for their accounts.

"As The People's Bank, we remain committed to doing our part to help where we can, especially at a time when our People need us most. As we Rebuild Stronger, we know the financial hardships that Typhoon Mawar has brought to our islands will make recovery challenging. Because of this, we will be automatically deferring all personal loan and credit card payments for our customers in Guam and Rota," said Joaquin P. L.G. Cook, Bank of Guam president and chief executive officer. (PR)

The bank's Online, Voice, and Mobile Banking platform have been updated allowing customers access to check balances and view transaction history. Balances on BOG Visa Debit Cards are now current, customers can now utilize their cards at any POS or ATM that is available. All fees incurred using non-BOG ATMs will be waived until the Bank's ATM fleet has been restored.

"Our ATMs are slowly coming back online as power and network connections stabilize and the locations we're in reopen. Our teams are on the ground and focused on the goal of bringing all our ATMs up as quickly as possible," said Joaquin P. L.G. Cook, Bank of Guam president and chief executive officer.

For the latest updates on Bank of Guam operations, follow @bankofguam on Facebook and Instagram or visit bankofguam.com. (PR)

BOG branch and Contact Center updates

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam announced updates to their Guam, CNMI, and Neighboring Branches, and Familia Contact Center.

The following branches and locations will resume normal hours beginning Tuesday, May 30, from 9am to 4pm. All transactions with the exception of new account openings will be available.

GUAM

- Hagåtña
- Yigo
- Andersen
- HQ, including Loan Services

CNMI

- Garapan
- Rota
- Tinian

FAMILIA CONTACT CENTER

- Temporary hours-from 6am to 9pm daily

Crucial days ahead as debt ceiling deal goes for vote

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden says he "feels good" about the debt ceiling and budget deal negotiated with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy as the White House and congressional leaders work to ensure its passage this week in time to lift the nation's borrowing limit and prevent a disastrous U.S. default.

Biden spent part of the Memorial Day holiday working the phones, calling lawmakers in both parties, as the president does his part to deliver the votes. A number of hard right conservatives are criticizing the deal as falling short of the deep spending cuts they wanted, while liberals decry policy changes such as new work requirements for older Americans in the food aid program.

A key test will come Tuesday afternoon when the House Rules Committee is scheduled to consider the package and vote on sending it to the full House for a vote expected Wednesday. "I feel very good about it," Biden told reporters Monday as he left Washington for his home in Delaware.

"I've spoken to a number of the members," he said, among them Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, a past partner in big bipartisan deals who largely sat this one out.

"I spoke to a whole bunch of people, and it feels good," Biden said.

To those progressive Democrats raising concerns about the package, the president had a simple message: "Talk to me."

As lawmakers size up the

99-page bill, few are expected to be fully satisfied with the final product. But Democrat Biden and Republican McCarthy are counting on pulling majority support from the political center, a rarity in divided Washington, to join in voting to prevent a catastrophic federal default.

Wall Street will open early Tuesday morning delivering its own assessment, as the U.S. financial markets that had been closed when the deal was struck over the weekend show their reaction to the outcome.

McCarthy acknowledged the hard-fought compromise with Biden will not be "100% of what everybody wants" as he leads a slim House majority powered by hard-right conservatives.

Nation

ON MEMORIAL DAY

Biden lauds generations of fallen troops who ‘dared all and gave all’

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden lauded the sacrifice of generations of U.S. troops who “dared all and gave all” fighting for their country and called on Americans to ensure their “sacrifice was not in vain” in Memorial Day observances at Arlington National Cemetery.

Biden was joined at the traditional wreath-laying ceremony by first lady Jill Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris and Harris’ husband, Douglas Emhoff, for the 155th National Memorial Day Observance. He had a moment of contemplation in front of the wreath, which was adorned with flowers and a red, white and blue bow, and then bowed his head in prayer.

“We must never forget the price that was paid to protect our democracy,” Biden said later in an address at the Memorial Amphitheater. “We must never forget the lives these flags, flowers and marble markers represent.”

“Every year we remember,” he said. “And every year it never gets easier.”

Monday’s federal holiday honoring America’s fallen service members came a day after

Biden and Republican House Speaker Kevin McCarthy reached final agreement on a deal that would raise America’s debt limit and that now awaits approval by Congress.

As it stands, the agreement would keep nondefense spending roughly flat in the 2024 fiscal year and increase it by 1% the following year. The measure would allow for 3% defense growth that year,

to \$886 billion, and then 1% the next year, to \$895 billion.

Biden has taken pride that his Democratic administration has overseen a time of relative peace for the U.S. military after two decades of war in Afghanistan and Iraq.

It’s been nearly 21 months since Biden ended the United States’ longest war, in Afghanistan, making good on a campaign promise to end a 20-year-old “forever war” that cost the lives of more than 2,400 U.S. service members.

The war in Afghanistan, however, ended in chaotic and deadly fashion on Biden’s watch in August 2021 with critics assailing the administration’s handling of the evacuation of some 120,000 American citizens, Afghans and others as poorly planned and badly executed.

The Biden administration last month released a review of the last days of the war, largely blaming his Republican predecessor, President Donald Trump, and asserting that Biden was “severely constrained” by Trump’s decisions.

The U.S. now finds itself leading a coalition of allies pouring tens of billions of dollars in military and economic aid into Ukraine as it tries to repel the Russian invasion, which appears to have no end in sight.

While making clear that he has no desire for U.S. troops to enter the conflict, Biden has maintained that he sees the Russian effort to grab territory as an affront to international norms and has vowed to help Kyiv win, sending artillery, tanks and drones and recently agreeing to allow allies to train Ukrainian military on American F-16 jets.



President Joe Biden and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin arrive at The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., on Memorial Day, Monday, May 29, 2023.

Impeachment trial of Texas AG to begin no later than Aug. 28

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—A historic impeachment trial in Texas to determine whether Republican Attorney General Ken Paxton should be permanently removed from office will begin no later than August in the state Senate, where the jury that would determine his future could include his wife, Sen. Angela Paxton.

Setting a schedule was one of the last orders of business lawmakers took Monday during an acrimonious end to this year’s legislative session in Texas, where the impeachment laid bare fractures in America’s biggest red state beyond whether Republicans will oust one of the GOP’s conservative legal stars.

It drags Republicans—who for years have pushed fast-changing Texas farther to the right—into a summer of unfinished business and soured feelings that are likely to spill into 2024’s elections.

The stakes are also raised for Republican Gov. Greg Abbott, who couldn’t get his full agenda through the GOP-controlled legislature on time. He almost immediately called lawmakers back to work for the first of “several” special sessions in the coming months.

His announcement made

no mention of Paxton, who Abbott has remained silent on since the impeachment proceedings began last week.

At the center of the conflict in the Texas Capitol is Paxton, who the GOP-controlled House overwhelmingly impeached this weekend on charges that include bribery and misuse of office following nearly a decade of scandal and criminal accusations that have dogged the state’s top lawyer. He is suspended from office pending trial in the state Senate, which set a start date of no later than Aug. 28.

Underlining the fallout of Paxton’s impeachment, the session ended with a dozen House lawmakers walking across the building and delivering the articles of impeachment to the Senate, where there are 31 senators who could act as jurors.

DeSantis kicks off presidential campaign in Iowa

WASHINGTON (AP)—Ron DeSantis plans to kick off his presidential campaign in Iowa on Tuesday, the start of a busy week that will take him to 12 cities in three states as he tests his pitch as the most formidable Republican challenger to former President Donald Trump.

The Florida governor’s two-day trip to the leadoff caucus state—starting at a suburban Des Moines megachurch and ending at a Cedar Rapids race-track—comes after a stumbling online announcement last week that formalized his long-anticipated entry into the growing Republican field. It will be followed by stops in early primary states New Hampshire and South Carolina.

DeSantis’ scheduled Tuesday evening stop at Eternity

Church in Clive is a conspicuous nod to the evangelical Christians who wield outside influence in Iowa’s Republican presidential caucuses. His visit will give voters an opportunity to meet the new candidate just as he has been stepping up his criticism of Trump.

“He’s got a big hill to climb—and I think everybody would agree with that—to be able to convince people that he can overcome Trump, that he can do a job as good as, if not better than, Trump,” said Bernie Hayes, the Republican chair in Linn County where DeSantis plans to wrap up his Iowa jaunt Wednesday.

DeSantis, assailed by Trump for months, pivoted from oblique swipes to direct questioning of the former president’s conservative credentials during a round of in-

terviews with friendly media last week, notably his handling of the coronavirus pandemic and record on criminal justice.

DeSantis called a bipartisan bill Trump signed in 2018 that reduced mandatory minimum federal prison sentences and allows a pathway for non-violent offenders to reduce prison time “a jailbreak bill.” As a member of Congress, DeSantis voted for an early version of the measure but had left Congress after he was elected governor and before the final, less strict bill passed.

DeSantis also said Trump wrongly “turned the country over to Fauci,” referring to Anthony Fauci, the former director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases who helped lead the country’s COVID-19 pandemic response.

Get to know the Sea Turtles of the CNMI

HAWKSBILL TURTLE
(ERETMOCHELYS IMBRICATA)



GREEN SEA TURTLE
(CHELONIA MYDAS)



SEA TURTLES & THEIR HABITAT

Sea turtles are marine reptiles. They breathe oxygen, have scales, and lay eggs. Both Hawksbill and Green Sea turtles call the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) home and live in our coastal waters.



REPRODUCTION & NESTING

Sea turtles take 20-30 years to become mature and be able to reproduce. Green Sea turtles are frequent nesters of our islands and can lay more than one clutch (nest) of eggs each nesting season.



DIFFERING DIETS

Hawksbill turtles are omnivores and feed on not only aquatic vegetation, but also on sea sponges and jellyfish. Green sea turtles are herbivores and consume seagrass and algae.



Asia

N. Korea will launch its 1st military spy satellite in June

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea said Tuesday it would launch its first military spy satellite in June and described space-based reconnaissance as crucial for monitoring the United States' "reckless" military exercises with South Korea.

The statement came a day after North Korea notified Japan's coast guard that the launch, sometime between May 31 and June 11, might affect waters in the Yellow Sea, East China Sea and east of the Philippines' Luzon Island. Japan's defense minister warned its forces to shoot down the satellite or debris, if any entered Japanese territory.

While North Korea's rivals have condemned the country's planned launch as a banned test of ballistic missile technology, it's less clear whether the satellite itself is advanced enough to support the North's stated goals of tracking and monitoring U.S. and South Korean military activities in real time.

The pace of both North Korea's weapons testing and the U.S.-South Korean joint military exercises increased in past months in a cycle of tit-for-tat.

In comments published by North Korean state media, senior military official Ri Pyong

Chol criticized the combined U.S.-South Korean military exercises, which Pyongyang has long described as invasion rehearsals. He said North Korea considers space-based reconnaissance "indispensable" to monitor the military exercises.

Last week, the South Korean and U.S. militaries conducted large-scale live-fire drills near the border with North Korea — the first of five rounds of exercises marking 70 years since the establishment of their alliance. Washington and Seoul describe their regular military exercises as defensive and have expanded their training since 2022 to cope with the North's evolving threats.

Ri said the expanding U.S.-South Korean drills and other military activities underline their "sinister intention" to prepare for preemptive military action against North Korea. He said the "dangerous military acts by the U.S." and its forces created a concerning security environment that makes it necessary for Pyongyang to gather real-time, reliable information on military movements in the region.

South Korea has warned that North Korea will face consequences if it goes ahead with the satellite launch in violation of United Nations

Security Council resolutions, which ban the North from conducting any launch using ballistic technology. Space-launch vehicles for satellites share core technologies with long-range missiles that are built to deliver warheads aimed at destroying intercontinental targets.

Japan's coast guard issued a safety warning for ships that would be in the affected seas during the expected launch, citing a risk of falling debris.

Last week, South Korea launched its first commercial-grade satellite, which experts say could provide Seoul with key technology and expertise to place its first military spy satellite into orbit later this year and build more powerful missiles.

Han Sung Geun, spokesperson of South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, said during a briefing that the South Korean and U.S. militaries were closely watching North Korea over the possible satellite launch and other provocative military moves. He did not provide specific assessments about the potential capabilities of the North Korean satellite and refused to say whether the South Korean military was preparing for the possibility that debris could fall in nearby waters.

India's northeast remains on edge after ethnic clashes

GUWAHATI, India (AP)—Shootings and arson continued Monday in India's northeastern state of Manipur, where clashes between security forces and tribal insurgents the previous day killed five people, media reports said.

The state, which borders Myanmar, has been roiled by violence for weeks after members of mostly Christian tribal groups clashed with the Hindu majority over its demands for special economic benefits.

More than 75 people have been killed in the fighting, the state's worst ethnic clashes in decades. Hundreds have been injured and more than 35,000 have been displaced.

Authorities said Indian Home Minister Amit Shah was expected to arrive in the state capital, Imphal, on Monday evening to review the security situation and help restore peace in the state, where the internet has been shut off to stop rumors from spreading and a curfew is in place.

The violence prompted the federal government to rush thousands of paramilitary and

army troops to the state, and many of the recent deaths were caused by the security forces.

The state's chief minister, N. Biren Singh, said Sunday that 40 Kuki insurgents have been killed by government troops. It was not clear whether the figure was part of the overall death toll.

"The fight is not between communities, it is between Kuki rebels and government security forces," Singh told reporters.

He said insurgents fired at civilians and burned down homes, prompting the security forces to counter their attacks.

The clashes occurred after the security forces began searching for weapons looted from police stations in order to curb the violence, the Press Trust of India news agency reported.

Homes and buildings burned in some villages on Sunday, with plumes of grey smoke filling the skies. Troops also fired in the air and lobbed tear gas shells to disperse a mob that attempted to take weapons from a police station near Imphal, said Sa-

pam Ranjan, a state government spokesperson. He said 1,041 guns and 7,500 rounds of ammunition have been looted in recent weeks, with authorities recovering about 500 weapons so far.

Gunfire was reported Monday in districts near the capital, army officials said. Homes were also set ablaze in the Leimakhong area, they said.

The violence first broke out on May 3 after protests by more than 50,000 Kukis and members of other predominantly Christian tribal communities against the majority Meitei Hindu community's demand for a special status that would give them benefits including access to forest land, cheap bank loans, health and educational facilities, and more government jobs.

The Kuki and other minority leaders say the Meitei community is comparatively well-off and that granting them more privileges would be unfair. The Meiteis say employment quotas and other benefits for the tribespeople would be protected.

World

AFTER NIGHTTIME BARRAGES

Russia strikes Kyiv in daylight

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Explosions rattled Kyiv during daylight Monday as Russian ballistic missiles took aim at the Ukrainian capital, hours after a more common nighttime barrage of the city by drones and cruise missiles.

Russian forces fired 11 ballistic and cruise missiles at Kyiv at about 11:30 a.m. (0830 GMT; 4:30 a.m. EDT), according to Ukraine's chief of staff, Valerii Zaluzhnyi. All of them were shot down, he said, and puffs of white smoke could be seen in the blue sky over the city from street level.

Debris from the intercepted missiles fell in Kyiv's central and northern districts during the morning, landing in the middle of traffic on a city road and also starting a fire on the roof of a building, the Kyiv military administration said. At least one civilian was reported hurt.

The blasts unnerved some locals, already under strain after being awakened by the night attack.

"After what happened last night, I react sharply to every siren now. I was terrified, and I'm still trembling," shared Alina Ksenofontova, a 50-year-old woman who took refuge in the Kyiv subway with her dog Bublik.

The central station, Teatralna, was crowded with sheltering locals.



People take cover at metro station during a Russian rocket attack in Kyiv, Ukraine, Monday, May 29, 2023.

Artem Zhyla, a 24-year-old who provides legal services abroad, took his laptop with him and kept working underground.

"I heard two or three explosions, went to the bathroom, and then I heard five or seven more explosions. That's when I realized something terrible was happening," he said.

Like many others in the capital, he feels exhausted and stressed. However, he has no intention of giving up and plans to attend his yoga class to recharge.

"This is certainly not enough to break us," he said.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and first lady Olena Zelenska both posted a video of what they said were frightened schoolchildren running and screaming down a Kyiv street toward a bomb shelter as sirens wailed.

"This is what an ordinary weekday looks like," the president wrote on Telegram.

Russia used Iskander short-range missiles in the morning attack, the spokesman for Ukraine's air force said on local television.

The missiles were fired from north of Kyiv, Yuriy Ihnat said, without clarifying if he meant Russian territory. Kyiv lies around 380 kilometers (236 miles) from the Russian border.

The Russian Defense Ministry said it launched a series of strikes early Monday targeting Ukrainian air bases with precision long-range air-launched missiles. The strikes destroyed command posts, radars, aircraft and ammunition stockpiles, it claimed. It didn't say anything about hitting cities or other civilian areas.

Turkey's Erdogan extends rule into third decade

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan won reelection Sunday, extending his increasingly authoritarian rule into a third decade as the country reels from high inflation and the aftermath of an earthquake that leveled entire cities.

A third term gives Erdogan, a polarizing populist, an even stronger hand domestically and internationally, and the election results will have implications far beyond the capital of Ankara. Turkey stands at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, and it plays a key role in NATO.

With more than 99% of ballot boxes opened, unofficial results from competing news agencies showed Erdogan with 52% of the vote, compared with 48% for his challenger, Kemal Kilicdaroglu. The head of Turkey's electoral board confirmed the victory, saying that even after

accounting for outstanding votes, the result was another term for Erdogan.

In two speeches—one in Istanbul and one in Ankara—Erdogan thanked the nation for entrusting him with the presidency for five more years.

"We hope to be worthy of your trust, as we have been for 21 years," he told supporters on a campaign bus outside his home in Istanbul in his first comments after the results emerged.

He ridiculed his challenger for his loss, saying "bye bye, Kemal," as supporters booed. He said the divisions of the election are now over, but he continued to rail against his opponent as well as the former co-leader of the pro-Kurdish party who has been imprisoned for years over alleged links to terrorism.

"The only winner today is Turkey," Erdogan said to

hundreds of thousands gathered outside the presidential palace in Ankara, promising to work hard for Turkey's second century, which he calls the "Turkish century." The country marks its centennial this year.

Kilicdaroglu campaigned on promises to reverse Erdogan's democratic backsliding, to restore the economy by reverting to more conventional policies and to improve ties with the West. He said the election was "the most unjust ever," with all state resources mobilized for Erdogan.

"We will continue to be at the forefront of this struggle until real democracy comes to our country," he said in Ankara. He thanked the more than 25 million people who voted for him and asked them to "remain upright."

The people have shown their will "to change an authoritarian government despite all the pressures," he said.

Good Housekeeping

Going **light** and **bright** for *Summer*



Lighter colors instantly give a space a crisp, fresh, and clean feeling.
DREAMSTIME/TNS

By CATHY HOBBS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The summer is typically the time of year when we dress in lighter/brighter clothing to keep cool—so it's also a good time to use softer, lighter colors within the home. In many situations, lighter colors give a space a crisp, fresh and clean feeling. Light colors can also make smaller rooms feel larger.

Where to start

When decorating or deciding

what colors to bring into any space, I suggest you begin by evaluating a space from the doorway to get a full perspective of the space.

From there, decide what will be the largest pieces in the room and begin with those. For example, select the color and material for your sofa before selecting your coffee table, or select your bed before selecting your nightstands.

Why neutral?

In general, choosing light or lighter colors for your upholstery pieces are the way to go.

Light colors blend well with other colors, and they can be used as a canvas from which a color palette can be created or built. Neutral colors are also timeless as opposed to trendy. You will likely get more use (and for longer) from your neutral selections.

Light, bright and perfect for summer

When people think of light colors, they might think mainly of white and taupe. But you can perk up your decor with a host of other colors this summer. Some great

options include:

- Light gray
- Muted gold
- Taupe
- Soft blue

■ Light pink

Accessories

When looking to bring accessories such as pillows and

artwork into a space, don't be afraid to go light and bright as well. A light painting hung on a wall can really add a lot of light to a room, for example.

These Coca-Cola hacks could change your life

By HUNTER BOYCE
THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

Atlanta-based Coca-Cola Company's world-famous soda has had quite the history since its introduction in 1886. Atlanta pharmacist John S. Pemberton originally touted the drink as a tonic, one containing cocaine and caffeine-rich extracts. The cocaine was removed from the recipe in 1903, and Coca-Cola has been a staple drink in American culture ever since.

Many customers have even found unexpected uses for the beverage, which has an acidic pH of roughly 2.7. Here are a few unexpected life hacks you can try with the world's favorite soda:

Clean your toilet

According to "Today," Coca-Cola can be an effective toilet cleaner. To try out this cleaning tip, pour Coca-Cola along the edges of the toilet bowl and let it soak overnight. In the morning, you will "wake up to a spotless toilet."

CNET reported that this is a great way to remove grime and stains from your toilet bowl. However, it should be noted that Coke will clean stains, but it doesn't disinfect.

Fertilize your garden

Coca-Cola is a perfect fertilizer for gardenias, azaleas and grass.

"Pouring a small amount like 15-20 ml of Coca-Cola once in a while around the base of these plants can deliver helpful nutrients to the plants, resulting in better flowers!" Balcony Garden reported. "It can also be a good lawn fertilizer, promoting the growth of grass, thanks to the CO2 content and plants love it! As soda drinks also have traces of potassium, carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, phosphorus, sulfur, and sodium, they contribute to the overall growth of the foliage."

Braise your meats

Coca-Cola can be a huge help in the kitchen for those looking for a way to up their

barbecue game. Adding Coca-Cola to a traditional braise, in place of red wine, for a brisket or pot roast can add a sweetness to your final product, Southern Kitchen reported. Reducing the cooking liquid after removing the meat can introduce more of the soda's spiced flavors as well.

Remove rust and loosen bolts

According to Car Hop, Coca-Cola can dissolve metal oxides and break up rust due with its carbonation. While the soda works more slowly than your average rust remover, it can be a cheaper alternative for loosening rusted bolts.

To remove rust with Coca-Cola, you will need to follow a few steps.

1. Pour the soda onto the rust and gently rub the area with folded over aluminum foil.
2. Once pieces begin to flake off, you can switch over to a sponge and repeat the process.
3. After the rust has been successfully removed, clean off the Coca-Cola from the affected area with soap and water

Air conditioner not working? Here's what to do when your HVAC breaks

By HUNTER BOYCE
THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

The summer heat is just around the corner, and that means HVAC troubles might not be far behind. Here are some quick tips on what you should do when your AC unit stops working during a heat wave.

Identify the problem

There are a number of common causes for AC units to stop working during a heat wave. For starters, it is important to check your filter. HVAC filters should be changed roughly every three months, as an old or dirty filter can cause dirt to build up in the system's ducts. If you have access to your HVAC's ducts, which are often found either in a home's attic or crawlspace, check that the duct seals are still in tact and that pests have not torn the insulation for nesting. Next, check your circuit breaker.

Sometimes HVAC units can trip a breaker, meaning you need to flip the breaker back into the on position. Lastly, if all else fails, make a note of what the HVAC system is and is not doing so that you can effectively inform a technician about your problem.

"If you're experiencing a lack of performance with your AC, make a note of what you're seeing and hearing by the unit," Cool Today said. "Is it turning on and immediately



There are a number of common causes for AC units to stop working during a heat wave.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

shutting off? Blowing hot air inside the home? Making a strange noise? Completely dead? These observations can help the technician think about possible causes so s/he will know what to check first upon arrival."

How to keep your home cool when the AC is broken

Just because your AC is broken, you don't have to live in total discomfort. There are a number of steps you can take to ensure your home stays cool while you wait for your HVAC unit to be repaired.

1. Close your shades: The sun's rays can create a greenhouse effect inside the home, which means open blinds lead to warmer homes. During the cooler nights, however, you should open your windows to

help drop the in-home temperature before morning.

2. Build a makeshift AC unit: With nothing more than a bowl of ice and a fan, you can create a makeshift AC unit of your own. The fan will pull warm air over the bowl of ice, melting the ice and consequently cooling the surrounding area. Speaking of fans, make sure all of your ceiling fans are spinning counterclockwise. This can usually be achieved by flipping a small switch on the fan, and will cause cool air to be pulled up from the bottom of the room.

3. Limit appliance usage: By spending less time at the oven, you can minimize any additional heat from entering your home. Likewise, you will want to limit time spent on any computers or any other heat-producing devices.

Life & Style

Amanda Gorman's poem for Biden inauguration barred by Florida school

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—A poem written for President Joe Biden's inauguration has been placed on a restricted list at a South Florida elementary school after one parent's complaint.

In a Facebook post on Tuesday, poet Amanda Gorman vowed to fight back. Her poem, "The Hill We Climb" was challenged by the parent of two students at Bob Graham Education Center in Miami Lakes, along with several books.

"I'm gutted," she wrote. "Robbing children of the chance to find their voices in literature is a violation of their right to free thought and free speech."

Gorman, who at 17 became the country's National Youth



Gorman

Poet Laureate, said she wrote the poem "The Hill We Climb," so "all young people could see themselves in a historical moment," and that she's received countless letters and videos from children who were inspired to write their own poems.

She became an international sensation at Biden's inauguration, where she was the youngest poet to read at the ceremony since Robert Frost was invited to John F. Kennedy's in 1961.

In "The Hill We Climb," Gorman references everything from Biblical scripture

to "Hamilton," and at times echoes the oratory of Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. With urgency and assertion she begins by asking, "Where can we find light/In this never-ending shade?" and used her own poetry and life story as an answer.

She said she planned to share a message of hope for Biden's inauguration without ignoring "the evidence of discord and division." She had completed a little more than half of the poem before Jan. 6 and the siege of the U.S. Capitol by supporters of then-President Donald Trump.

The poem and books are still available in the media center for middle school-aged children, Ana Rhodes, a spokesperson for the Mi-

ami-Dade school district, said in a statement.

While book bans are not new, they are happening much more frequently, especially in Florida—where Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis has championed policies that allow the censorship of books some have deemed inappropriate for children in schools, causing national uproar.

DeSantis, who entered the 2024 presidential race Wednesday, has leaned heavily into cultural divides on race, sexual orientation and gender as he gains support from conservative voters who decide Republican primary elections.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre condemned the decision to ban Gorman's poem, saying

Biden and his administration stands with her.

"The President was proud to have Ms. Gorman, the youngest inaugural poet, speak at his inauguration," she said.

"Banning books is censorship, period," she added. "It limits American freedom—Americans' freedom—and we should all stand against that type of act."

Yecenia Martinez, principal of the K-8 school, which is part of the Miami-Dade public school system, did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment about the poem's ban. The school is named after Bob Graham, a former Democratic governor and U.S. senator from Florida.

Daily Salinas, the parent who objected to the poem and

books, told the Miami Herald she's not "for eliminating or censoring any books." Salinas said she wants materials to be appropriate. It was not immediately clear what she objected to in Gorman's poem.

After her complaint, a materials review committee made up of three teachers, a library media specialist, a guidance counselor and the principal, determined one of the books in question was balanced and age appropriate, and would remain available for all students, the newspaper reported.

The other four were deemed "better suited" or "more appropriate" for middle school students. The books were to remain in the middle school section of the media center, the review concluded.

After year of long overdue Hollywood love, actor James Hong is still having his moment

By **TERRY TANG**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Greeted with a standing ovation at the Screen Actors Guild Awards, James Hong could easily have just basked in the applause and moved on. But for the 94-year-old, the mostly Asian cast of "Everything Everywhere All at Once" winning best cast seemed like an opportunity for a stark reminder that Hollywood wasn't always so open.

"It just came out of me that after all these years of working with producers and directors, and they were always saying, 'Oh the Asian, the Chinese, are not good enough to play the



Hong

leading role," Hong told The Associated Press recently. "But look at Michelle (Yeoh) and all these colleagues now coming forward to be recognized ... You can't help but say 'Look at us now.'"

Looking at Hong now, you will see perhaps the busiest nonagenarian in show biz. The last year for him has been a wild ride. A year ago he finally received his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Shortly after, "Everything Everywhere All at Once" and the over-

whelming response propelled the actor into every major awards event. He got to see the movie collect seven Oscars, including a historic best actress win for Yeoh. Host Jimmy Kimmel even took a moment to pay tribute to him.

Viewers will soon be able to hear Hong in "Gremlins: Secrets of the Mogwai," an animated prequel series of the movie franchise. Episodes began streaming Tuesday on Max (formerly HBO Max). He also appears in an episode of the new Disney+ show, "American Born Chinese," which also premiered this week and is producer on the upcoming movie "Patsy Lee and the Keepers of

the 5 Kingdoms."

It's as if the universe is trying to make up for all the racial discrimination the Asian American icon endured over the years.

Born in Minneapolis, Hong originally studied civil engineering in college. After serving in the Korean War, he decided in 1953 to move to Hollywood. He got his break on Groucho Marx's quiz show, "You Bet Your Life." Small film roles opposite actors like Clark Gable followed. But so did roles that were racist tropes.

In the series "The New Adventures of Charlie Chan," Hong played the son of the titular Chinese detective. He had to stomach watching a white lead actor "put on fake eye pieces" so that his eyes would

look more "Asian."

"Then he would just talk in a very stoic pattern that's supposedly Chinese," Hong recalled. "That irritated me for many, many years."

A lot of his early roles reflected the limited options for Asian actors at the time: workers in laundries, restaurants on railroad lines.

Those "Asian cliches" are far behind him now. He is also helping to revisit some and flesh them out.

Sam Register, president of Warner Bros. Animation, had the idea to do a prequel to "Gremlins" and gave showrunner Tze Chun the reins to come up with ideas. Chun wanted to expand on the family history of Mr. Wing, the store owner played by Keye Luke who houses original Gremlin

Gizmo in the 1984 flick. In this animated take, viewers will see Mr. Wing as a little boy in 1920s Shanghai encountering the furry creatures who shouldn't eat after midnight. Hong, who was actually friends with Luke, voices Sam's sly and spunky grandfather.

Hong's "iconic voice" was at the top of the show's wish list. There's something about his delivery that is "equal parts gravitas and incredible humor," Chun said.

"It's never what you think it's going to be, which is what's so exciting about it," Chun said. "It's like you can try to hear it when you're writing it on the page. But then when he does it, he brings that like unique spin to it that is just out of left field. And, frankly, just makes it better."

Colleague notes what is really going on at work

DEAR ABBY: A guy at work, "Leon," is my age, very friendly and down-to-earth. When we've worked together, we have had great conversations, and he has told me a lot about his girlfriend who he's been with for years. I feel guilty knowing this because Leon is having an affair with a girl here at work who's almost a decade his junior, and they've started getting very brazen about it.

He tells people he's tempted by her but would not cross the line. The girl, however, tells very different, detailed and personal stories about their rendezvous. I'm not friends with Leon on Facebook, but I looked at his profile to read a tribute to his recently lost friend and saw his girlfriend's name, and I'm tempted to reach out.

This woman doesn't know me, but I know that at my age, if my boyfriend of three years was messing around at work and everybody knew but me, I'd be livid at them almost as much as I would be at him. As someone who has been cheated on before, I feel I have a duty to his girlfriend because I wouldn't want to waste another second in the dark or with a cheater.

Then again, since Leon and his plaything aren't subtle, do you think I should approach him instead and ask if he's still with his girlfriend or if she knows about the mistress? I've always thought honesty was the best policy and straightforwardness got the most honest answers. Any advice would be much appreciated.

WITNESS IN VIRGINIA

■■■
DEAR WITNESS: I understand your impulse to intervene on behalf of Leon's wronged girlfriend, but for your own sake, please resist the urge. If you start a firestorm, your workplace could become unbearable. So, with the understanding that Leon is a cheater and a liar, stay out of it.

■■■
DEAR ABBY: My son is preparing to go to basic training. I have been making travel plans to see him graduate, and it is stressing me out. My parents, who have very little money, said they want to go. I rented a house for myself and other family members, but because my parents are bringing their dog, they cannot stay there. (There's a no-animals rule.) So I rented another place for them.

When I suggested they bring a crate to keep their dog in while we're away during the events, my mother said she will remain with the dog. My father says he is interested only in the events in the morning and refuses to participate in the town pass with my son because of the expected walking. So now I'll have to make additional plans to take my son to visit them during the few hours he's available during his pass.

Furthermore, when I mentioned leaving a few days earlier so we can arrive and not be rushed, my father said he doesn't want to leave any earlier than he has to. I'm at my wits' end. This trip is expensive, and I'm paying most of the expenses for two people who aren't even going to be part of the activities. This trip should be about my son, but I'll need to tend to

DEAR ABBY

BY **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



my parents as well. I don't know what to do.

PROUD DAD IN OHIO

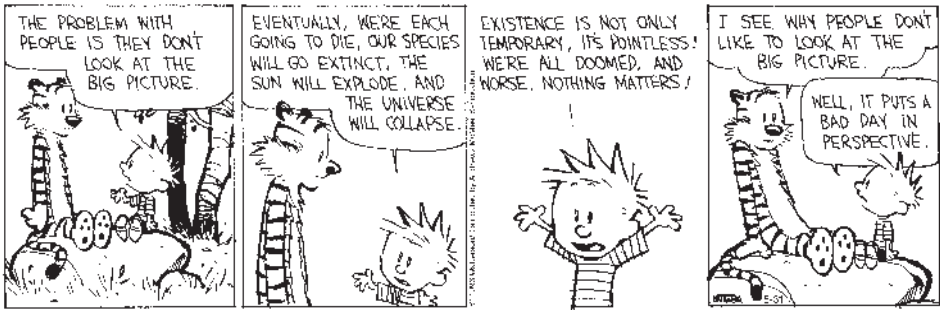
■■■
DEAR DAD: Your parents' attitude is regrettable. Cancel the reservation for the dog-friendly accommodations and tell them the trip is off. Then go and celebrate your son's graduation with him and suggest your parents have a belated party for your son when he returns home. If you do, you will save yourself a bundle of aggravation and frustration, not to mention money.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



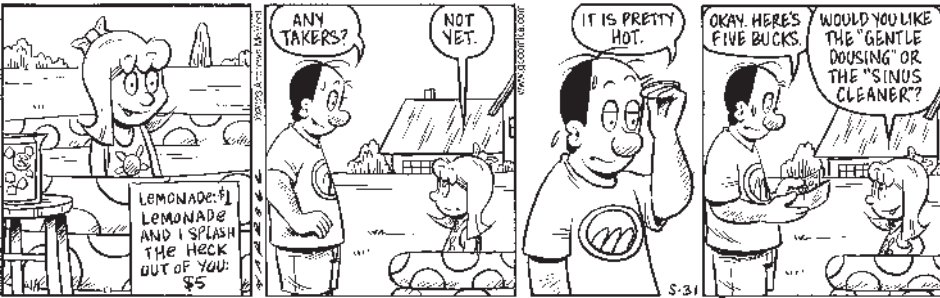
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Frost
5 Armed conflict
8 Swift jets
12 Me, myself —
13 Ruckus
14 Miami team
15 Stocky
17 To be, in Toulon
18 Picked a target
19 Arts companion
21 Answer an invite
24 Martian mover
25 Smooch
28 Ireland
30 Hit hard
33 Sugar suffix
34 Killer whales
35 FDR project
36 Youngster
37 Synthesizer pioneer
38 Compared to

39 Actress — Dawn Chong
41 Ballet attire
43 Aches (for)
46 Cartoon genre
50 Villa d'—
51 Lionel product
54 Cruising
55 Agrees to
56 Big name in scat
57 Flag-maker Betsy
58 Burst
59 Girl

2 "Dedicated to the — Love"
3 Eve's mate
4 Comedian Joan
5 Existed
6 Citric beverage
7 Campus mil. group
8 Wheat bundle
9 Describe
10 Small pie
11 Canonized Fr. women
16 QB's stats
20 Regrets
22 — Beach, Fla.
23 Loop of lace
25 Automation, for short
26 Gl-entertaining gp.
27 Fixed charges
29 Prego rival
31 Glam Gardner
32 "Sheesh!"
34 Warning sign
38 Subway passage
40 Locales
42 — chi
43 Twelve months
44 Canadian gas brand
45 Halt
47 Actress Fisher
48 "Alice" diner
49 Greek vowels
52 "King Kong" studio
53 Venomous viper

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 5-31

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Colin Farrell, 47; Brooke Shields, 58; Tom Berenger, 74; Clint Eastwood, 93.

Happy Birthday: Pamper yourself. Reorganize your life and your plans, and set goals that excite you. Having something to look forward to can make the difference between success and failure. Refuse to let anyone dictate what you do or how you do it. Take pride in who you are and what you have to offer. Choose to lead the way instead of letting someone else step in and take over. Your numbers are 9, 15, 24, 31, 34, 39, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep your feelings to yourself. Sharing too much information will put you in a vulnerable position that causes problems for you professionally and personally. Look at every angle before making a move that will affect how or where you live. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let anger take over when action is how to get what you want. Use your connections to ensure you have a backup plan to reach your target. Fixing your personal space will boost your morale if you don't exceed the budget. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Consider what's entailed before you promise or offer help. Protect your reputation, position and relationships with key people in your life. Refuse to let emotions interfere with your plans and decisions. Don't trust others to do things for you. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Establish what you want to do before you start. Map out your plan from beginning to end and approach the people you need on your team to be

successful. Be cognizant of the response you get from those who offer suggestions. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll be impulsive. Don't jump to conclusions. Listen to what others have to say. A change someone makes will offer insight into how to proceed. Move forward alone instead of working with someone who lacks interest in your plan. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take care of your responsibilities before moving on to pleasurable pastimes. You'll enjoy yourself more if you don't have to worry about what you left unfinished. Romance will change the dynamics of a meaningful relationship. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Be careful when dealing with others. Your actions or words will be misconstrued and cause uncertainty. Choose to make your home or workspace functional. The better equipped you are, the more success you'll achieve. Take better care of your health and emotional well-being. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can take on the universe, but don't expect it to be smooth sailing. Choose to take a positive attitude, regardless of how others respond. Focus on self-improvement, educational pursuits and getting along with those with something to offer. Romance is favored. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Pick up the pace, designate funds to cover your expenses and choose to take a minimalist approach to whatever you do, regardless of comments. It's time to please yourself and do what comes naturally. Don't give up on your dreams. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Spend more time improving your living arrangements. The changes you undertake will ease stress and give you hope for a brighter future. Focus on self-improvement, surrounding yourself with like-minded people and romance. A positive attitude will encourage a healthy lifestyle change. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll encounter a challenge if you share too much information with a friend, relative or colleague. Don't give away your secrets or let someone stifle your dreams. Act on your own behalf and leave nothing to chance. Put your energy where it benefits you. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Push aside those who are negative. A positive attitude will invite new opportunities and input from people who can envision what you are trying to achieve. Choose quality over quantity, and you'll be heading down a lucrative path. ***
Birthday Baby: You are persistent, intuitive and proactive. You are tolerant and ambiguous.

3: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. **4:** You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. **5:** Focus and you'll reach your goals. **6:** Aim high; start new projects. **7:** Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

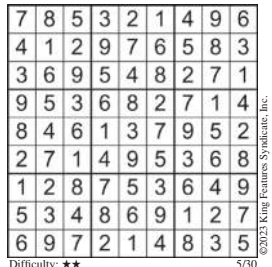
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty: ★★★ 5/31
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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

FAMOUS BRADS AND BRADLEYS Solution: 8 letters

S E H C I R P E N N Y R R E P
T A S U O S J F I O R E N Z A
E S O F A X O N R K W P R I I
V E T R A H S R E A H O U M S
E M N N O W E L L V E O B M L
N L I C L T P S L A N C L E E
S O C H T A H S I N K H O R Y
S H M U N T W D M A E A C L L
M O R B N A R E N G P L A K E
A W E B L O Y E B H R L M C M
I A T S F B I R D B U E E A M
L R T T E R R A G E E N G D E
L D I L L E B U R K E R T G H
I H P F I R U O D E L S O N C
W I G G I N S S D N O M M I S

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Beal, Bell, Bird, Burke, Chubb, Colburn, Cole, Cooper, Dack, Delp, Delson, Dourif, Faxon, Fiorenza, Garrett, Gregg, Hall, Hart, Henke, Holmes, Howard, Hunt, Joseph, Kane, Kavanagh, McIntosh, Miller, Nowell, Paisley, Penny, Perry, Pitt, Riches, Rutter, Ryan, Schemmel, Simmonds, Sousa, Stevens, Walsh, Walst, Webber, Whitford, Wiggins, Williams, Zimmer
Yesterday's Answer: Quiz
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STUMPED?

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It's Heat and Nuggets for the Larry O'Brien Trophy

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP BASKETBALL WRITER



Cancel that flight plan, Denver. Turns out, the NBA Finals are starting in the Mile High City after all.

And Jimmy Butler was proven right.

Finally, we have a title-series matchup: The Miami Heat, champions of the Eastern Conference even after getting in as only the No. 8 seed, will take on the Western Conference champion Nuggets in Game 1 of the NBA Finals. The series starts in Denver on Thursday night.

The Heat got there by winning Game 7 of the East title series in Boston on Monday night. It came one year to the day after the Celtics won a Game 7 on Miami's floor to win the East title a year ago.

"Next year, we will have enough and we're going to be right back in the same situation, and we're going to get it done," Butler vowed that night.

The Heat made those words prophetic.

The Nuggets had a flight to Boston tentatively scheduled for Tuesday afternoon, just in case they would be facing the Celtics—who would have had home-court advantage in the title series.

But the Heat had other ideas, won the deciding game to avoid becoming the first team in NBA history to fall after claiming a 3-0 series lead, and Nikola Jokic and the Nuggets now await. The Heat are in the finals for the seventh time and seeking their fourth championship; the Nuggets are in the finals for the first



Miami Heat forward Jimmy Butler, left, dunks as Boston Celtics guard Jaylen Brown defends during the second half in Game 7 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals Monday, May 29, 2023, in Boston.

time in franchise history.

"When we wake up tomorrow morning, we know who we're playing," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said Monday, a few hours before the Celtics and Heat tipped off in Game 7. "We know who we're preparing for and we can kind of turn the page and really focus in on that. The Eastern Conference finals has been a hell of a series."

Malone will try to win an NBA title for the first time, and if Denver prevails he'll become the 36th coach in league history to win a championship. Miami's Erik Spoelstra is seeking his third title as a head coach; if he wins it, he'd join only Phil Jackson, Red Auerbach, Heat President Pat Riley, John Kundla, Gregg

Popovich and Steve Kerr as three-time champion coaches.

Denver hasn't faced any real trouble yet in these playoffs. The Nuggets are 12-3 in the playoffs, winners of their last six games — and grabbed control of their matchups against Minnesota in Round 1, Phoenix in Round 2 and the Lakers in the West finals right away.

Two-time MVP Jokic averaged a triple-double against both the Suns and the Lakers, and enters these finals averaging 29.9 points, 13.3 rebounds and 10.3 assists per game. One of his signature moves of late has been pointing to his ring finger while looking at his family; he's now four wins away from the piece of jewelry he wants most.

"Nikola is still a humble, selfless person and he cares about home, he cares about family, he cares about his horses — the guy is just who he is," Malone said. "I couldn't have more respect for him as a man because of that."

A week ago, Miami was in position to do what Denver did—get to the finals with a sweep. It's almost like the Heat forgot they were a 44-38 team that needed two play-in games just to get into the playoffs; they ousted No. 1 overall seed Milwaukee in Round 1, got past New York in Round 2 and then avenged last season's loss to Boston in the East finals by somehow going onto the Celtics' home floor and winning a Game 7 to avoid the permanent stench of being the

first team in NBA history to waste a 3-0 series lead.

"Sometimes you have to suffer for the things that you really want," Spoelstra said. "And this group has shown fortitude. ... We still have more to do."

It was a hellish week, for certain. But the Heat got there, just the second No. 8 seed to ever make the finals.

"Everybody rallied around each other," Heat center Bam Adebayo said.

Miami has three players with championships — Udonis Haslem has been part of all three Heat titles, Kevin Love won a championship with Cleveland and Kyle Lowry got a ring with Toronto. The Nuggets have one champion on their roster; Denver's Ken-

tavious Caldwell-Pope got one with the Lakers at the NBA's restart bubble in 2020 against the Heat.

Also back from that Heat finals team: Butler, Adebayo, Duncan Robinson, Tyler Herro and Gabe Vincent. The only Denver player besides Caldwell-Pope with finals experience is Jeff Green, who played in the title series alongside Love with Cleveland in 2018.

So, most players will be seeking their first ring. Haslem is trying to end his career with a fourth, and Lowry is among the lucky few who are trying to smudge the Larry O'Brien Trophy for the second time.

He remembers how long it took him in 2019, after the Raptors won their title, to start thinking about winning his next one.

"Maybe like the day after," Lowry said. "And every champion, every NBA champion, would tell you this: There's a high that you never have felt and you want that high again. And there's nothing like that."

Denver swept both games against Miami in the regular season. And both sides will inevitably say that those games won't matter much starting Thursday.

"The Heat are playing an unbelievable high level," Malone said. "Jimmy Butler, what he's been doing since Round 1 against Milwaukee, continued that Round 2 against New York and now what he's doing against Boston is just historical in nature. And Erik Spoelstra ... obviously Spo is one of the best coaches in the league, someone who I have a tremendous amount of respect for as a coach but also just as a friend."

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Joel Embiid and the 76ers battled in yet another play-off game with the Raptors, this time in 2022, when the All-Star center barked at Toronto coach Nick Nurse — in a quite PG-13 fashion — to stop whining about foul calls.

Embiid's beef with Nurse didn't end in the playoffs. After the two-time NBA scoring champion was held — held, in quotes — to 28 points in a 2022 regular-season game, Embiid charged the Raptors "don't care about winning" as long as a player of his stature was held below his scoring average.

Hey, what could go wrong this season? The 76ers didn't even play the Raptors in the playoffs.

Yet, when Brooklyn frustrated Embiid in a first-round series, the league MVP complained the Nets "kind of took the Nick Nurse route of begging for free throws and calling out the referees."

Source: 76ers hire former Raptors coach Nick Nurse

OK, the introductions might be awkward. Or at least good for a laugh. But the 76ers are now counting on Embiid and Nurse to work together in a productive relationship as the new pair chases the franchise's first championship since 1983.

With the fate of 10-time All-Star James Harden in the balance, the 76ers remained all-in with their championship pursuit on Monday, selecting Nurse as their new coach to try and end more than two decades of playoff failure.

The 76ers hired the 55-year-old Nurse following his exit last month from Toronto Raptors, a person with direct knowledge of the decision told The Associated Press. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the team had not announced the move.

Nurse led the Raptors to the 2019 NBA championship

after they beat Embiid and the 76ers in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference semifinals. The 76ers not only haven't a title in 40 years, they haven't advanced past the second round since 2001.

Nurse will replace Doc Rivers, who was fired after he led the 76ers to their second straight 50-win season behind NBA MVP Embiid but again failed to lead them to the Eastern Conference finals.

The 76ers held a 3-2 semifinals series lead against Boston before dropping Game 6 at home and were crushed in Game 7 on the road.

The 76ers still have to decide if they will try to bring back Harden — who is expected to decline the \$35.6 million option on his contract and become a free agent — but making a move for a championship-winning coach like Nurse shows the franchise is still all in as it goes in

for a championship with Embiid still in his prime.

Nurse went 227-163 in his five seasons as coach in Toronto, where his .582 winning percentage ranks as the best of any coach in Raptors history. He also spent five years as an assistant to former Raptors coach Dwane Casey before taking over the top job.

Nurse seemingly made his first play for the 76ers' job in March when the Raptors were in town for a regular-season visit. Nurse said his relationship with president of basketball operations Masai Ujiri and general manager Bobby Webster was at a crossroads and time would be needed to decide on his future.

"It's been 10 years for me now, which is a pretty good run," Nurse said. "I don't know, over those 10 years, we've got to be up there with number of wins for anybody in the league. I don't know

what it is, but we've had a lot of good seasons."

Nurse was right: Only Golden State (.661) had a better winning percentage than Toronto (.613) in that span.

Nurse played at Northern Iowa, then started his coaching career there as an assistant. He wound up becoming a head coach at Grand View University when he was just 23. He coached in Belgium and Britain — winning a pair of British Basketball League titles as a coach in Birmingham in 1996 and London in 2000 — then got a couple of titles in what is now called the G League.

The second G League crown with Houston's team got Nurse noticed, with the Raptors calling because they wanted to talk to him about offense. They ended up hiring him as an assistant, and he'd been with Toronto ever since.

The Raptors finished 41-

41 this season before losing at home to the Chicago Bulls in the play-in round of the postseason.

Sixers president Daryl Morey continues to build the team around his old Houston Rockets connections. Besides Harden — and PJ Tucker and Danuel House, among others — Nurse coached Houston's G League-affiliate Rio Grande Valley Vipers for two seasons while Morey was in charge. Nurse won the G League title in 2013 before moving on to a successful NBA career.

Nurse led the Raptors to the title in his debut season. And despite Kawhi Leonard's departure, the Raptors were playing well before the COVID-19 pandemic halted the season in March 2020. Toronto wasn't the same in the bubble and lost to Boston in seven games in the second round of the playoffs, though Nurse did win the NBA Coach of the Year.

Stroman pitches 1-hitter as Cubs beat major league-leading Rays



CHICAGO
(AP)—Marcus

Stroman raised both arms and pounded his glove as the crowd at Wrigley Field roared following the final out.

He had silenced the team with the best record in baseball. And he did it with a performance he will never forget.

Stroman threw a one-hitter, and the Chicago Cubs beat the major league-leading Tampa Bay Rays 1-0 on Monday.

Stroman (5-4) dazzled in his fourth complete game and second shutout in nine major league seasons. His only other shutout was against the Cubs during his 2014 rookie season with Toronto.

"Throwing a CG at Wrigley, that's like one of the top moments of my career," Stroman said. "The energy. When I walk out there 40 minutes before the game, there's a massive cheering section already."

Stroman gave them plenty to cheer once he stepped on the mound.

He set a season high with 105 pitches and matched one with eight strikeouts. The right-hander walked one in winning his third straight start and helped the Cubs bounce back from a weekend sweep by Cincinnati.

The only hit Stroman allowed was when Wander Franco delivered a flare for a clean single to left leading off the seventh. Stroman walked Brandon Lowe and got out of that jam by getting Randy Arozarena to fly out and Josh Lowe to ground into a double play. The only other Rays runner to reach base was when Luke Raley was hit by a pitch leading off the third.

The shutout was the sixth this season for Chicago. Stroman was the first Cubs pitcher to go the distance without allowing a run since Alec Mills' no-hitter at Milwaukee on Sept. 13, 2020.

"He just had really good stuff," Rays manager Kevin Cash said. "When you have the stuff that he has, and the late movement with the sinker, we were very prepared and aware of what he was going to do. But sometimes all that awareness, it doesn't matter if the pitcher's executing like he did today."

Stroman came in with a 5.04 ERA in 16 starts against Tampa Bay. But this time, he overwhelmed the Rays.

"It was like playing a video game," Cubs catcher Tucker Barnhart said. "He made it super easy."

ROYALS 7, CARDINALS 0

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Josh Staumont and Mike Mayers came within six outs of the first com-



AP
Chicago Cubs starting pitcher Marcus Stroman throws during the first inning of a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays Monday, May 29, 2023, in Chicago.

bined perfect game in major league history before Nolan Arenado lined a leadoff single in the eighth inning of Kansas City's win over St. Louis.

Staumont, a 29-year-old right-hander, served as the opener in a planned bullpen game for the Royals. He made his first major league start in his 167th appearance and struck out two in a 1-2-3 inning, throwing 14 pitches.

Mayers, a 31-year-old left-hander, made his third appearance for the Royals this season after eight starts at Triple-A Omaha. He retired 18 consecutive batters before Arenado lined a 1-0 slider to left on his 72nd pitch.

The Royals tied their season high with 16 hits. Nicky Lopez matched his career high with four hits, and Nick Pratto and Vinnie Pasquantino had three each. Mike Massey hit a two-run homer and Bobby Witt Jr. added a solo homer.

Adam Wainwright (2-1) allowed three runs and nine hits in five innings for the Cardinals, who were shut out for the sixth time.

ATHLETICS 7, BRAVES 2

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Ryan Noda hit a three-run homer that spoiled Michael Soroka's long-awaited return to the majors from two separate tears of his right Achilles tendon, and Oakland beat Atlanta to snap an 11-game losing streak with its 11th win of the season.

A's right-hander Paul Blackburn came off the injured list to make his season debut, striking out six with a pair of walks over four innings. He allowed four hits and one run as the Athletics (11-45) won for only the second time in 16 games. Lucas Erceg (1-0) pitched three shutout innings of hitless relief with four

strikeouts for his first major league win.

Braves slugger Matt Olson hit his 17th homer in the eighth. Oakland responded in the bottom half by getting RBI singles from Ramón Laureano, Shea Langeliers and Jace Peterson.

Soroka (0-1) didn't allow a hit until Jonah Bride's one-out single in the third but quickly loaded the bases with another single and a hit batter. He emerged unscathed after inducing Seth Brown's inning-ending double play.

ANGELS 6, WHITE SOX 4

CHICAGO (AP)—Brandon Drury and Matt Thaiss homered and Los Angeles spoiled Liam Hendriks' return for Chicago.

Drury hit a three-run shot and Thaiss followed with another drive during a four-run first inning against a shaky Michael Kopech. Griffin Canning (4-2) struck out nine in six innings, and Mike Trout finished with two hits.

Hendriks pitched the eighth in his first big league appearance since he was diagnosed with stage 4 non-Hodgkin lymphoma. The Angels scored two runs on Zach Neto's sacrifice fly and Trout's RBI single.

Eloy Jiménez, Andrew Vaughn and Romy González homered for Chicago in its third consecutive loss. Kopech (3-5) struck out 10 in 4 1/3 innings, but he also hit two batters, threw two wild pitches and walked two. Carlos Estévez earned his 13th save.

GUARDIANS 5, ORIOLES 0

BALTIMORE (AP)—Logan Allen allowed three hits in seven strong innings, and Cleveland broke through for four runs in the seventh on the way

to a victory over Baltimore.

Will Brennan had three hits for the Guardians, who have won three of four. Allen (2-2) struck out a career-high 10 in his seventh big league start. The rookie left-hander also set career marks for innings pitched and fewest hits allowed — and this was his first scoreless outing.

Enyel De Los Santos and Trevor Stephan finished a five-hitter, Cleveland's fifth shutout this season.

Tyler Wells (3-2) allowed a run and four hits in six innings, striking out seven without a walk.

YANKEES 10, MARINERS 4

SEATTLE (AP)—Aaron Judge hit two homers and robbed Teoscar Hernández of one in the field with a leaping catch at the wall, leading New York past Seattle.

Domingo Germán pitched into the seventh inning to win his first start following a 10-game suspension for using a foreign substance on the mound. Germán (3-3) scattered seven hits and permitted four runs over 6 1/3 innings while striking out four.

Jake Bauers also went deep and the Yankees finished with a season-high 18 hits. For Seattle, Julio Rodríguez hit his 10th homer and had a two-run single.

Bryce Miller (3-2) allowed 11 hits and eight earned runs in 4 2/3 innings.

DODGERS 6, NATIONALS 1

LOS ANGELES (AP)—J.D. Martinez hit a three-run homer and Freddie Freeman had a two-run double during a six-run fifth inning as Los Angeles defeated Washington.

Bobby Miller (2-0) yielded four hits and a run over six innings in his second consecu-

tive victory to begin his career with the NL West-leading Dodgers. He struck out four and retired 12 of his final 14 batters after Washington scored its only run in the second inning.

Nats starter Trevor Williams (2-3) was sharp until the fifth, when he allowed six unearned runs. He gave up four hits, two walks and James Outman's RBI flyout in the inning while the Dodgers batted around in a rally made possible by shortstop CJ Abrams' early error.

Lane Thomas extended his on-base streak to a career-best 25 games and his hitting streak to a career-best 14 games with an eighth-inning single for the Nationals, who have lost 11 of 14 to the Dodgers over the past three seasons.

RANGERS 5, TIGERS 0

DETROIT (AP)—Nathan Eovaldi won his sixth straight decision, Corey Seager hit a three-run homer with four RBIs and Texas defeated Detroit.

Eovaldi (7-2) allowed four hits and a season-high three walks in five innings with four strikeouts. Brock Burke, Jonathan Hernández and José Leclerc finished a five-hitter, the Rangers' fifth shutout this year.

Matthew Boyd (3-4) gave up five runs on five hits and four walks in six-plus innings.

Detroit (25-27) had won four of its previous five games and had been trying to reach .500 for the first time since a 4-4 start in 2022. The Tigers have been shut out five times.

DIAMONDBACKS 7, ROCKIES 5

PHOENIX (AP)—Pavin Smith hit a go-ahead, three-run homer, Drey Jameson threw 3 2/3 innings of impressive relief in his return to the big leagues and Arizona ral-

lied from a four-run deficit to beat Colorado.

The Diamondbacks erased a 4-0 deficit with five runs in the second inning, punctuated by Smith's three-run homer. Jake McCarthy had a two-run single earlier in the rally. Arizona starter Ryne Nelson (2-2) gave up five runs on eight hits and three walks over five innings, striking out one.

Colorado's Ryan McMahon homered in his fourth consecutive game. He had four hits and finished a double short of the cycle. Ezequiel Tovar added a two-run double. Rockies starter Karl Kauffmann (0-3) gave up seven runs on nine hits and two walks over four innings, striking out one.

TWINS 7, ASTROS 5, 10 INNINGS

HOUSTON (AP)—Rookie Royce Lewis homered and drove in four runs in his season debut and Ryan Jeffers hit a two-run shot in the 10th inning as Minnesota beat Houston.

Max Kepler started the 10th as the automatic runner on second before Jeffers homered off Bryan Abreu (2-1) into the seats in left for his third hit and a 7-5 lead.

Lewis had a three-run homer in the third for the Twins. The Astros went ahead 5-4 when Jose Altuve hit a grand slam in the seventh.

Lewis came through again late, tying it with an RBI single off Ryan Pressly with two outs in the ninth. It was closer's first blown save in 11 chances.

Jhoan Duran (1-1) pitched a scoreless ninth and returned for the 10th, sitting down Altuve, Jeremy Peña and Yordan Alvarez to end it.

GIANTS 14, PIRATES 4

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Rookie Patrick Bailey had four RBIs on his 24th birthday as San Francisco routed Pittsburgh, which slipped under .500 for the first time since the opening weekend of the season.

Bailey, playing his ninth big league game, hit a go-ahead, two-run double against Rich Hill (4-5) in a five-run second inning. He added a two-run homer in an eight-run seventh.

Austin Slater hit a two-run homer in the second and a two-run double in the seventh as the Giants won for the 11th time in 14 games — and for the 14th time in 19 home games.

Bailey and Casey Schmitt each had three of the Giants' 18 hits, as did Slater, Brandon Crawford and Mitch Haniger.

Jack Suwinski hit two solo homers into McCovey Cove off Anthony DeSclafani (4-4) and Brett Wisely, a position player who pitched the ninth, as the Pirates have lost 19 of 25 games after a 20-8 start.

Team Marianas beats New Chang Ming for last finals spot

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER

Team Marianas beat New Chang Ming

Ming Market, 100-86 in the last semifinals game of the 2023 Michelob Ultra Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Team Marianas earned the finals spot against Martech-Ol'Aces in the championships played last night with results of that game to be posted later.

Coby Santos of Team Marianas put on a stellar performance which gave his team the upper hand from the jump ball. Racing down the court, Santos would make 14 of the team's 32 points in the first quarter.

New Chang Ming could not hold Santos off as he snaked through their defense with ease—putting pressure on them



LEIGH GASES

Team Marianas' Coby Santos goes for a layup against New Chang Ming Market's Tristan Montes during the semifinals of the 2023 Michelob Ultra Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

shots. In the third quarter, Santos was assisted by teammates Jack Aranda and Greg Sablan and the trio put Team Marianas up by 16 points heading into the last quarter. Aranda coincidentally plays for New Chang Ming in the Saipan Centennial Lions Club Basketball League.

New Chang Ming was down to their last chance to stay in the playoffs as they battled it out in the fourth quarter—with Gino Asauo scoring his second third pointer of the game and two players being handed free throws by fouls—but it wasn't enough to dissuade Team Marianas.

By this time, Aranda was already 6-for-6 from 3-point range and added 4 more points to rack up a total of 22 points. Santos did not let up either and had a game high 37 markers—with only him and Aranda making it to double digits for their team by the end of the game.

Deleon Guerrero was tied with Daryl Foronda with 14 points for New Chang Ming, while Rodel Pastrana had 19, and Montes and Asauo had 13 each.

Team Marianas 100 – C. Santos 37, Aranda 22, Garcia 9, G. Sablan 8, Villarin 8, K. Santos 4, Aldan 4, Richardson 3, Hocog 3, Raquepo 2.

New Chang Ming 86 – Pastrana 19, Deleon Guerrero 14, Foronda 14, Asauo 13, Montes 13, Cruz 5, Gontar 4, Aspasan 4.

Scoring by quarters: 32-23, 54-42, 81-65, 100-86.

Local MMA returns via Ring of Fire at year's end

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Trench Warz Promotions is heading the call of mixed martial arts fight fans on the island via Ring of Fire slated for the end of the year.

Trench Warz Promotions president Justis "Cuki" Alvarez said bringing back local MMA fights has been on the back of his mind since last year.

"We've been definitely thinking about bringing MMA back, no doubt. What I can say for sure is that we will have something before the end of the year. I don't want to let too much information out just yet, as we are still in talks with sponsors and venue locations, but what I can tell you is that, we have been planning this since right after the COVID-19 pandemic was totally eased up last year September," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Alvarez did say they will again be working with Pacific



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

In this undated file photo, Roman "Sonic Boom" Alvarez, left, kicks Derek "El Peligro" Rangamar in one of Trench Tech's Rites of Passage events at the Saipan World Resort.

Trading Co. to bring back MMA action in the CNMI.

"We will be hosting some fight night Friday's in the near future and that will be focus-

ing mainly on stand-up fights such as amateur boxing and kickboxing. We will also be having some grappling Brazilian Jiu Jitsu superfights as

well," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Alvarez said Ring of Fire will be fought inside a squared boxing ring.

"Trench Tech has actually purchased a 16 x 16-foot ring since 2021, but because of the whole issue with COVID-19 we couldn't do anything as far as having actual bouts. The whole social distancing and gathering of big crowds just didn't allow us to."

He added that Trench Warz Promotions is sending out an invitation to all mixed martial arts gyms in the CNMI to prepare and train their fighters for Ring of Fire.

"We are looking for all competitors, young and old, male and female. I will be slowly building up and advertising the event as the moment grows near, but we are hoping to have something in November or December to end the year with a bang!"

Interested competitors for Ring of Fire, can call Trench Warz Promotions at 670-783-4MMA.

OL'ACES

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and assisted to teammates to complete the 28-point rout.

Kelvin Fitial went nuts against K2 Ballerz's over-matched big men down low and finished with a game-high 19 points, while high-flying swingman Freddie Pelisamen chipped in 18 points.

Vincent Satur was the lone double-digit scorer for K2 Ballerz with 15 points.

In the second game, fifth seed The Game edged fourth seed Ali'i, 80-76.

The Game and Ali'i were

locked in a dogfight from the get-go with the former taking a 21-16 advantage after one quarter of play.

The tug of war continued in the next stanza with The Game barely getting ahead with a candlestick 1-point lead at the half, 37-36.

The Game then had an offensive explosion in the third, outscoring their opponents, 29-18, to enter the fourth and final quarter with a 66-54 lead.

Ali'i to its credit fought back in the final 10 minutes, but eventually The Game made the right plays in the endgame to eke out the

4-point win.

Forward Steve King led four The Game players in twin digits with 15 points, while comebacking D.J. Ong added 14 points of his own.

The loss spoiled Jaymark De Guzman's career game as the athletic Ali'i swingman wound up with 30 points. Veteran playmaker Elmer Esdrelon was the only other Ali'i player to finish in double figures with 15 markers.

First Game

Martech-Ol'Aces 94 – Fitial 19, Pelisamen 18, Atan 15, Schmidt 10, Diaz 8, Onopwy 6, Lizama 6, Basa 4.

K2 Ballerz 66 – Satur 15, Lizama 8, Palmes 8, Mami 7, Mariano 7, Taitingfong 5, Dikito 5, Santos 4, Espiritu Santos 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-15, 44-29, 63-46, 94-66.

Second Game

The Game 80 – King 15, Ong 14, Richardson 11, Arelano 11, Ferrari 8, Deleon Guerrero 8, Bravo 5, Mizutani 5, Sablan 3.

Ali'i 76 – De Guzman 30, Esdrelon 15, Talania 9, De Dios 7, Santos 5, Leung 3, De Vero 2, Elchico 2, D. Mateo 1.

Scoring by quarters: 21-16, 37-36, 66-54, 80-76.

instead of the other way around. By the end of the first quarter, New Chang Ming were behind by 10 points.

Shane Deleon Guerrero and Tristan Montes tried to keep New Chang Ming afloat as they took turns at the basket. Montes had scored 10 points by the end of the second quarter and Deleon Guerrero added 9 markers of his own.

However, Team Marianas kept adding more points and lengthened the lead just as New Chang Ming were getting into the groove of banking their

LAM

From Page 20

terrific progress tactically and mentally since we've been here. He will play doubles Wednesday with Anthony Gregoire, who used to live on Saipan."

Race added that he expects Lam to be the second seed in the 12-and-under age group in the POJC.

MP

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slow down as she found the back of the net again in the 32nd minute.

Paire's offense was shut down as they were not able to penetrate MP United's defenses and succumbed to defeat without putting a goal on the board.

Kanoa FC dealt a similar blow to the winless Matansa team as Matansa could not find their way to the net through the whole game.

Mary Kay Alferos scored the first goal in the 14th minute and that was it for the first half.

Both teams struggled on the pitch throughout the rest of the first half and until the 51st minute when finally, Aubrey White scored the second goal.

Matansa made some attempts

As for the conditions in Guam following Mawar, Race and Lee said it's been a challenge.

"Still no water. We got water from the pool last night to shower and Simon washed some clothes," said Race.

"We still don't have water. It's good we have power at least. People are lining up at least three hours to get gasoline," said Lee.

at the goal but none of them stuck and by the 58th minute, Kanoa had scored another goal by way of Jane Malabanan's cleats. Matansa remained scoreless for the rest of the game and was handed their eighth loss of the season.

The second game of the day went to Southern United FC as they defeated Tan Holdings, 1-0.

SUFC's Rosie Saralu scored the lone goal in the 25th minute of the game. Both teams could not find the net after that and the win went to SUFC.

In the standings, MP United leads with a 7-2-1 record; SUFC is close second with a 7-1-2 record; Shirley's is third with 6-3-1; Kanoa is at 5-1-5; Paire is 4-0-6; Tan Holdings is 1-2-7; and Matansa has yet to win with 0-3-8.



It's Heat and
Nuggets for the
Larry O'Brien
Trophy.
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Team Marianas
beats New Chang
Ming for last finals
spot.
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Ol'Aces, The Game win as open playoffs start

MARK RABAGO
Martech-Ol'Aces' Douglas "Spider" Schmidt drives against two K2 Ballerz players in the open division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Monday at the Civic Center Basketball Court.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Top seed Martech-Ol'Aces routed K2 Ballerz, while The Game upset Ali'i as the open division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League kicked off last Monday at the Civic Center Basketball Court.



Ol'Aces got off to a jackrabbit start and took a 23-15 lead after the first 10 minutes of the ballgame.

They will only increase their lead in the second quarter and enter the halftime break with a 44-29 spread.

K2 Ballerz, the eighth seed,

continued to struggle at the onset of the second half and stared at a 63-46 deficit entering the fourth and final quarter.

Ol'Aces then withstood several attempted comebacks by K2 Ballerz in the final 10 minutes as star guard Douglas "Spider" Schmidt picked the pockets of K2 Ballerz players

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Lam gets wildcard entry to POJC

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI's La Hunn Lam has gotten a wildcard entry to the 2023 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships set for later this year in Lautoka, Fiji.

The 13-year-old made the cut after his performance in the U18 Guam World Tennis Tour.

Lam won his second round assignment against fellow CNMI netter Simon Tang, 6-1, 6-2, before succumbing to Japanese netter Riku Oshima by the same score in the third round of the qualifiers.

"I am so grateful to get a wild card entry. I do appreciate coach Jeff [Race], the Oceania Tennis Federation, NMI friends, and family for all the support. I am very excited to play against good players in the POJC. I can't wait to play," he told *Saipan Tribune* in a social media message.

Lam's mother, Joo Lee,



Lam

said his son also had good words to say following his victory over Tang.

"It's always nice to play against a good player like Simon, who is my friend," he said.

As for joining the U18

Guam World Tennis Tour, which first week was canceled due to Typhoon Mawar, Lam said it was a good experience especially since it served as his debut in an International Tennis Federation event.

"I am happy that I was able to join the ITF junior tournament. It's my first ITF tournament and it was a great experience for me. I have learned a lot. I have improved on my game tactics even though I lost, I had so many game points but I lost most of them. I need to work on the important points," he said.

Next up for Lam is suiting up in the doubles phase of the tournament where he is paired with former CNMI netter Anthony Gregoire.

After Guam, he is expected to return to Saipan and train with Race at his Ace Tennis Academy.

Race said despite the defeat, Lam was still impressive considering the Japanese netter he lost to was much older than him.

"La Hunn drew Simon for singles yesterday (Sunday) and won. Today (Monday) he played a Japanese 16-year-old and lost in the last round of qualifying but played really well. He has made some

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MP United, Kanoa FC blank opponents in women's soccer

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER



MP United Football Club and Kanoa FC both blanked their opponents in Week 12 of the Flores-Pée Luwal Division of the 2023 Spring Dove Women's League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville

last Sunday.

MP United is on top of the standings after they defeated Paire FC, 2-0, as Kanoa FC also blanked Matansa, 3-0.

It was Lorian Rabe of MP United's day as she sprinted to and fro on the pitch and made both goals. She opened up the game as she scored her first goal just five minutes into it. After the first half, she did not

See MP on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kanoa FC, in orange, faces off against Matansa FC during Week 12 of the Flores-Pée Luwal Division 2023 Spring Dove Women's League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Sunday.